

SUMMER CHIC: BEACH TO BOHO, 157 IDEAS

# Cottages & BUNGALOWS

## *go coastal*

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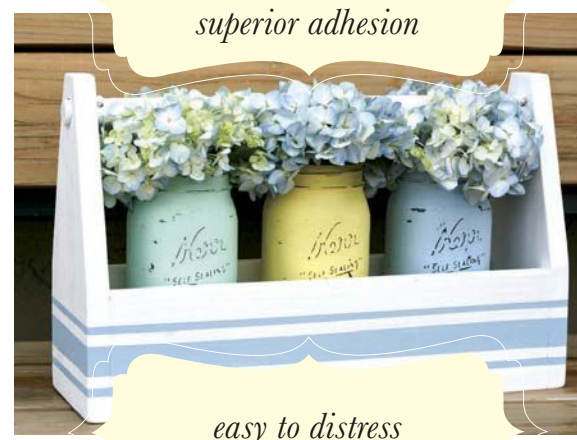
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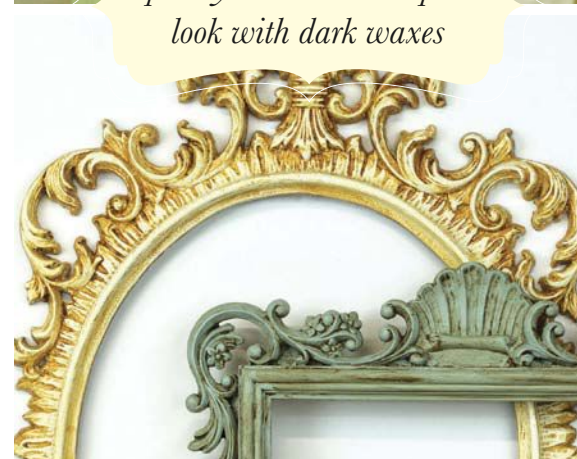
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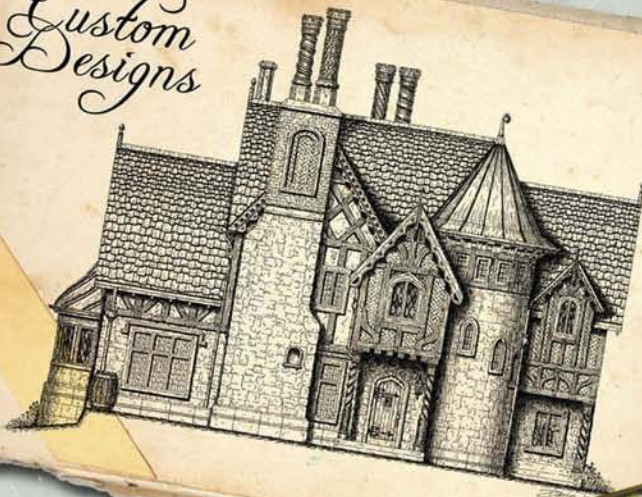
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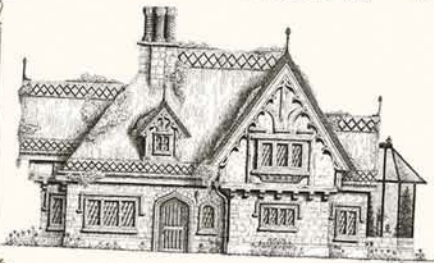
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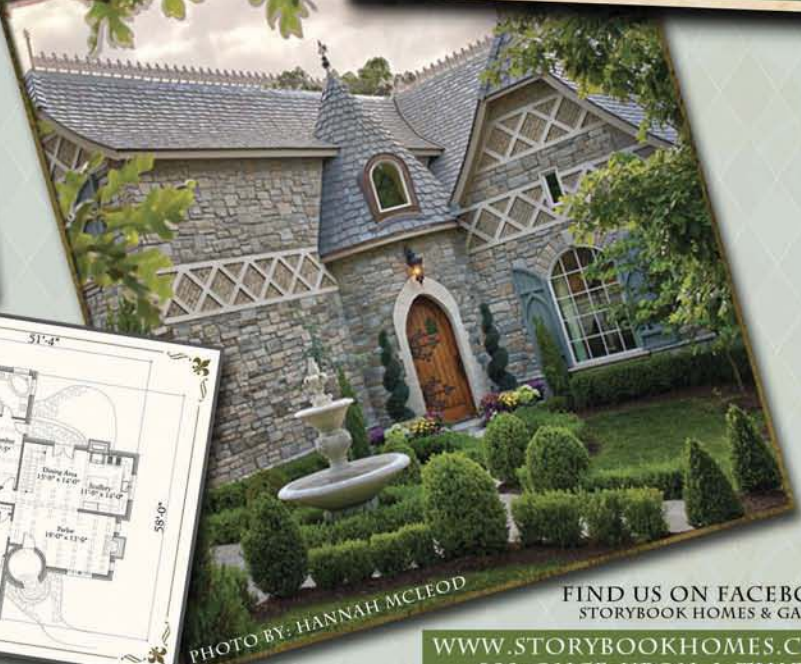


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**WE HAVE TWO COVERS!** This issue, to celebrate our favorite elements of indoor/outdoor style, we feature a romantic seaside outdoor porch and a beautiful white bedroom with a view of the ocean. Collect both covers today!

Photo by Simon Scarboro/Country Homes & Interiors/Time Inc., UK



Photo by Astronaut Images/Getty Images





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# HANG TEN



PHOTO BY MARK MENDEZ

LET ME MAKE A BOLD STATEMENT and then let you laugh awhile: I have every quality and characteristic a surfer should possess, minus the ability to surf. What I mean is that I think I really understand and appreciate the surfer mentality and that especially during the summer, it's something every homeowner should embrace.

I'm talking about the quintessential, and sure, sometimes clichéd, stereotype that surfers are laid back. But it's also about accepting what nature gives you, going with the proverbial flow of life and just relaxing and appreciating what comes your way. During the summer my standards relax a bit, and the rest of the

house follows suit. My sofa gets a white cotton slipcover, the windows stay open for three months and the floors get a little sandier. Social events have a come-as-you-are ease: no fancy glasses or dinner party menus. Everything we drink comes out of a pitcher, and everything we eat is either prepared by hand or pulled directly off a flaming grill.

From now until the weather turns, do your décor and yourselves a favor and hang ten a little bit. Watch what happens when your home dances with the ebb and flow of summer living, and pick up a few habits that might make life a little easier all year long.

Jackie Torres, Editor



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# In the mood **FOR MOD**

BY JENNA DIXON

Channel your inner retro spirit with these fun and funky Palm Springs-inspired home goods.



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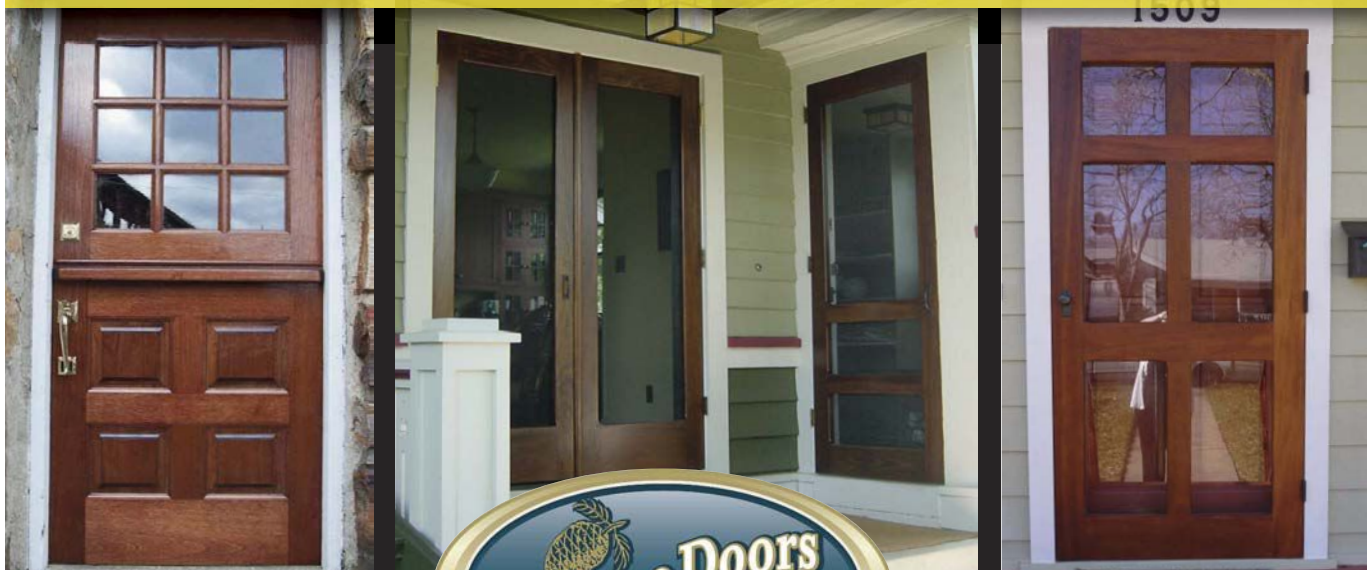
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# ROOM WITH A VIEW

See how to take advantage of the summer's best asset—the sunny and vibrant landscape outside.

BY JICKIE TORRES

WHEN DAYS ARE LONG AND WEATHER is perfectly warm it's no wonder that we spend more time outside than in. But what can you do to capture the adventurous spirit of summer for your interior? Here a few simple updates that will make your home feel refreshed and renewed.

## 1. CLEAR THE CLUTTER.

Just as in spring cleaning, assess your rooms and take stock of lingering items that should be cleared out. Hot weather and busy days call for fuss-free and uncomplicated living, so ditch the extra accents and décor and try the simple life.

## 2. STRIP YOUR WINDOWS.

Switch your curtains to sheers or remove them altogether if you can. Let the great weather and sunny days filter into your home.

**3. DINE AL FRESCO.** Take time to outfit your dining areas so that you use them more frequently during the next few months. Prep a basket of outdoor linens and keep it handy, so you can serve dinners outside at the drop of a hat. Clear a spot in the cupboards for melamine dishes and cups to be in easy reach. And add a few extra decorative items like outdoor rugs, lanterns and pillows to make the space more inviting and special.

**4. WHITEN UP.** Hot weather just begs for clean, crisp white décor, which feels cooler and more refreshing than heavy colors and patterns. Update your throw pillows and accents also to whiten the load.



PHOTO BY SIMON SCARBORO/COUNTRY HOMES & INTERIORS/TIME INC. UK



HOT WEATHER AND BUSY DAYS CALL FOR  
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SO DITCH THE EXTRA ACCENTS AND  
DÉCOR AND TRY THE SIMPLE LIFE.



# TROPICAL BUNGALOW

See how the rich wood tones and clean lines of midcentury wares add a chic getaway vibe to your décor.

BY MAGGIE ABRATTE

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRIAR GRUNWALD

“We gravitate toward a lot of teak, wrought iron and rattan,” Briar says.

“Combining those textures with live plants like palms is really reminiscent of the 1960s Tiki movement.”





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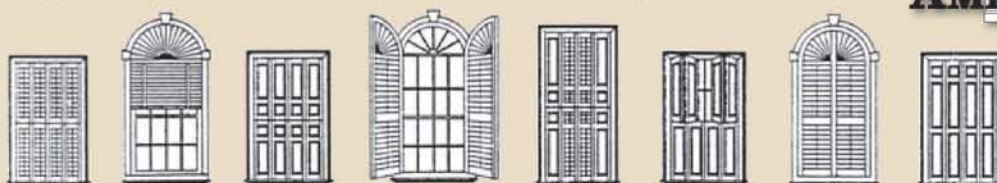
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SUMMER BRINGS THE OPPORTUNITY to travel, and with that, the possibilities of finding treasures from other places.

Briar and Jason Grunwald, the pair behind Other Times Vintage, got started by treasure hunting when they needed to furnish their own apartment, but found they loved so many pieces that they were quickly running out of space. They began refurbishing and selling items to friends and local businesses before they decided to open an Etsy shop.

"I love shopping at estate sales," Briar says. "You can see where people have been. It's like getting a glimpse into their lives."

The Grunwalds, who describe their style as "tropical bungalow," tend toward clean midcentury modern furniture and textiles. "We gravitate toward a lot of teak, wrought iron and rattan," Briar says. "Combining those textures with live plants like palms is really reminiscent of the 1960s Tiki movement."

With a combined background in interior design, photography and restoration, Briar suggests starting at estate sales and flea markets, and recommends choosing which items to restore by going with your intuition

as she and Jason do. "If we're both drawn to an item then we have to get it," Briar says. "We have different senses of style, so when we agree, we know the item is special."

For more on Other Times Vintage, visit [etsy.com/shop/OtherTimesVintage](https://www.etsy.com/shop/OtherTimesVintage).





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# TRIM YOUR *Sails*

BY VICTORIA VAN VLEAR

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CYNTHIA SHAFFER

Create these fun coastal accents with some driftwood, drill fabric and your own hands.



**FOR MANY OF US, THE BEACH** is more than just a place—it's an experience that stays with us long after we've left the roaring waves. Whether you can see the ocean from your front porch or have to board an airplane to reach it, you can incorporate the shore into your home. In her new book *Coastal Crafts*, Cynthia Shaffer makes DIY coastal décor accessible and easy. "I really want everyone, regardless of

where you live, to be able to make these coastal crafts," she writes. For these miniature driftwood sailboats, you can use driftwood you find, purchase online or even make yourself. (*Coastal Crafts* provides a driftwood-making tutorial.) The sailboat is an essential element to coastal décor, so let your imagination sail with the tide to create these fun miniature vessels.



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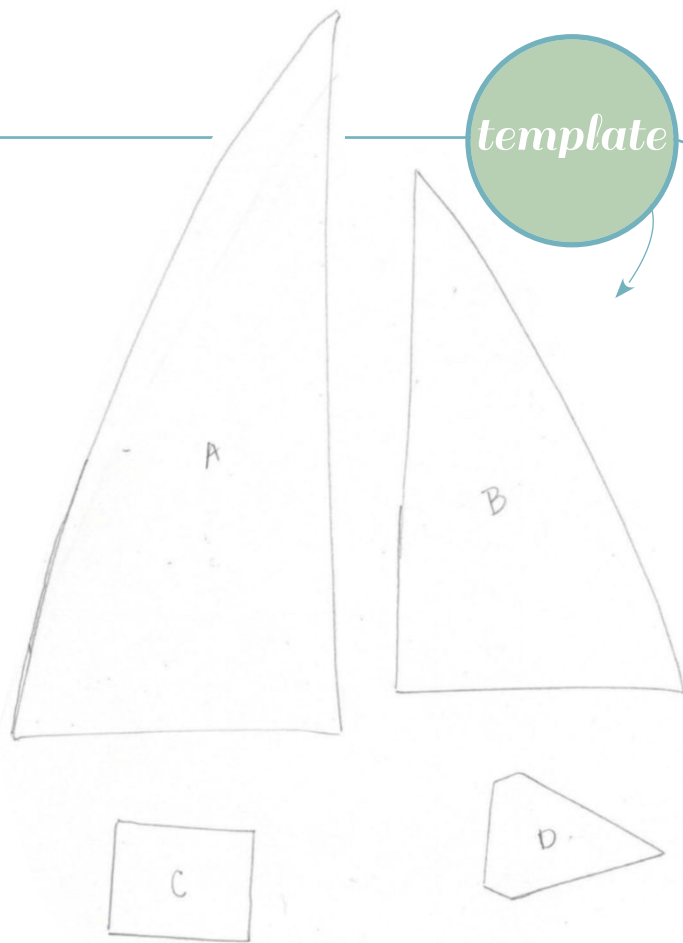
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## WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- Driftwood Sailboat Template A
- Driftwood Sailboat Template B
- Driftwood Sailboat Template C
- Driftwood Sailboat Template D
- 9 pieces of driftwood, 5–6 inches long
- 6 wood craft sticks, 4 ½ x ⅝ inches
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Electric drill and drill bits
- Wood glue
- 24 ⅝ inch (10mm) No. 3 tacks
- Small hammer
- ¼ yard natural color drill fabric
- Acrylic paint: white, sea-foam green, aqua, yellow and dusty red
- Kitchen scissors
- Paintbrush
- ⅝-inch hole-punch
- Large-eye needle
- White cotton string, 5 yards
- 3 sticks, 8 inches long and ¼ inches in diameter
- White glue
- 3 coins: 1 quarter, 1 nickel, 1 penny



## HOW TO DO IT:

### AQUA STRIPE AND PENNANT SAILBOAT



**1.** Place three pieces of driftwood of roughly the same length next to one another.

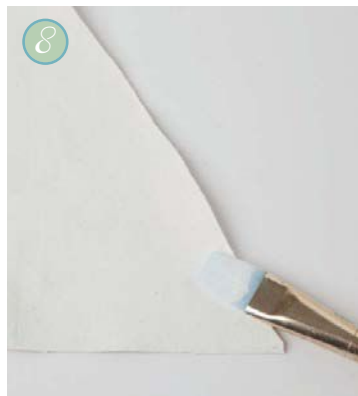
**2.** Cut down two wood craft sticks to measure 2 ¼ inches each.

**3.** Place the cut craft sticks across the driftwood and mark with a pencil where the tacks will be placed, one on each piece of driftwood, for each craft stick (photo 1).

**4.** Drill a hole slightly larger than the tack at each mark. Put a small drop of wood glue on top of each drilled hole (photo 2).

**5.** Place the wood craft sticks on the driftwood again and hammer the tacks into place. Set aside for the glue to dry. Repeat for the other side (photo 3).





**6.** Flip the driftwood structure over and mark with a pencil the center of the middle piece of driftwood.

**7.** Drill a hole at this mark that is slightly bigger than one of the 8-inch sticks, which will be used as the mast (photo 4).

**8.** Fill the drilled hole with wood glue, and then push the "mast" stick into the hole (photo 5). Adjust the stick slightly to make sure that it is standing up as straight as possible. Set aside to dry (photo 6).

**9.** Hammer a tack at both ends of the middle piece of driftwood (photo 7).

**10.** Cut out one of Driftwood Sailboat Template A and three of Template D from the drill fabric.

**11.** Paint the sail white (photo 8). Paint two pennants sea-foam green and one pennant yellow (photo 9).

**12.** Once the sail is dry, mark horizontal lines as follows: 1 1/8 inches up from the bottom, 2 1/4 inches up from the

bottom, 3 3/4 inches up from the bottom, and 4 1/4 inches up from the bottom (photo 10). Paint the marked stripes aqua (photos 11–12).

**13.** Punch holes in the corners of the sail (photo 13).

**14.** Thread a large-eye needle with cotton string. Thread the string through the punched holes in the sail (photo 14), and then wrap the string around the mast stick, at the bottom, about 1/2 inch up from the driftwood (photo 16). Then knot the string. Repeat for the top of the mast (photo 15) and the side of the sail, except attach the string to the tack.

**15.** Cut a length of string 14 inches long. Mark the center of the string with a pencil.

**16.** Glue the yellow pennant to the string center at the mark. Glue the other two pennants to the string, 1/2 inch from the yellow pennant, on either side. Place paper clips where the pennants fold over the string to keep them in place while the glue dries (photo 17).

**17.** Once the glue is dry, tie and knot the pennant string to the top of the mast stick and then to the end tack.

**18.** Daub glue on the string and the stick to secure the knots. Trim off excess string.



[1]

# sea foam, jute & blue

Come home to an entryway reminiscent of your favorite coastal getaway by pairing paint, wallpaper, texture and function.

BY SARAH JANE O'KEEFE



[2]



[3]



[4]



[5]



[6]







1. "Like Something Out of a Beach Boys Song" 36 x 24-inch premium photographic print, \$74.99. (800) 952-5592 or [art.com](http://art.com).
2. Farrow & Ball Samphire BP 4002 wallpaper, \$225 per roll. Visit [us.farrow-ball.com](http://us.farrow-ball.com).
3. Farrow & Ball Card room green number 79, \$97 per gallon. Visit [us.farrow-ball.com](http://us.farrow-ball.com).
4. Whitewashed birds, \$30. Visit [tch.net](http://tch.net).
5. Indigo lima basket, \$91. Visit [ecochic.com.au](http://ecochic.com.au).
6. Baron console table, \$2,400. Visit [sweetpeaandwillow.com](http://sweetpeaandwillow.com).
7. Harbor pendant light, \$215. Visit [ecochic.com.au](http://ecochic.com.au).
8. Scrimshaw whale tray, \$40. Visit [maidenshop.com](http://maidenshop.com).
9. Spinnaker outdoor lounge chairs, \$540. Visit [ecochic.com.au](http://ecochic.com.au).
10. Trio of natural jute baskets, \$56. Visit [thedharmadoor.com](http://thedharmadoor.com).
11. Sea urchin air plant, \$10. Visit [ohfshop.com](http://ohfshop.com).

[7]



[8]

[9]



[10]



[11]







# Stick-to CREATIVITY

Removable wallpaper helps you switch up your wall designs and save yourself lots of headache.

BY STEPHANIE BAKER  
PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF  
CHASING PAPER

You push the last side table into place in your newly-rearranged living room and plop down on the couch to enjoy your victory. But then you realize that boring tan paint has got to go.

If you've ever decorated a house or rearranged a room, then you know that changing the style of your walls can be a big hurdle—the labor of painting or the fear of commitment—what if you don't like it after all? One way to avoid this struggle is to try removable wallpaper. Removable wallpaper is as simple as it sounds—you peel off the back, apply it to the wall and





peel it off when you get tired of the design or color, with no damage done to the wall. It doesn't take much effort or energy to apply. Chasing Paper produces these no-hassle wallpapers, and they offer a plethora of fun designs and colors. The paper is reusable as well as removable, so if you decide that zigzag design would look better in your hallway than in the kitchen, you can move it.

Another bonus of the removable wallpaper is that you don't have to use it solely on walls. It comes in small panels, so you can stick it to the top of a table, line a drawer with it or even stick it to your refrigerator. Wherever you envision the design, you can place it there. These creative designs are great for renters, commitment phobes and anyone who likes to make life easier.



Pair the wallpaper with your more interesting walls, like this wood siding, for added appeal.

« Opposite » Keep things interesting in a room by only papering part of a wall.



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## thinking outside

Here are some other fun alternatives to traditional wallpaper:

## THE WALL

- 1 **Wall Decals and Stickers:** Don't want to decorate your whole wall? Try removable and reusable wall stickers, and add a tree, animals, cars or even a city landscape to liven up a room. Check out [wallwords.com](http://wallwords.com) for more ideas.
- 2 **Patterned Paint Roller:** If you're set on a painting challenge, make the room more interesting with the patterned paint roller. Paint over a solid color with the roller for a repeated design that gives the appearance of wallpaper. Visit [notwallpaper.com](http://notwallpaper.com).
- 3 **Wall Tiles:** Give your walls 3-D appeal with interlocking tiles that pop off the walls in intricate designs. Find ideas at [modtiles.com](http://modtiles.com) or [shopreworks.ca](http://shopreworks.ca).
- 4 **Upholstered Walls:** Though perhaps more on the challenging side, lining your walls with fabric can create a nearly sound-proof environment and give off a more intimate vibe. Check out [wallsbyannemarie.com](http://wallsbyannemarie.com) for ideas.
- 5 **Wall Collage:** Avoid the hassle of finding frames for your photos, and instead, show them off in a fun wall collage. Send your digital photos to [collagewall.com](http://collagewall.com), and they'll make the collage for you, or you can get tips and ideas for DIY collages on Google and Pinterest.



### « Clockwise »

Line the inside of your drawers or decorate the outside—you can never go wrong with removable wallpaper.

Hang this design slightly crooked by mistake and no one will be able to tell. It also would look great lining a bookshelf.

Fun flower designs can lighten up a dull room. Peel the back off the wallpaper, line the corners up on the walls and smooth down the paper with your hands or a credit card.



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# SAIL AWAY *with* Me

BY JENNA DIXON  
PRODUCED BY JICKIE TORRES

Live the coastal life with  
these fresh new finds for  
seaside-inspired décor.

**Set sail into your next dinner party** with this maritime-themed plate set. Mainsail course plate set, \$39.99. (888) 495-9699 or [modcloth.com](http://modcloth.com).





5 ▶



4 ▼



**1. These terracotta and metal fishing weights** will add the perfect rustic touch to any desk, bookshelf or outdoor space. Coastline fishing weights (set of 3), \$69. (888) 223-2423 or [birchlane.com](http://birchlane.com).

**2. Drift away in the comfort of your favorite space** with this fade-resistant classic screen-print wallpaper. Julia Rothman Daydream (blue), \$150. Visit [hyggeandwest.com](http://hyggeandwest.com).

**3. A textured pop of coral** will bring any space some cheer with a properly placed pillow. Coral pillow, \$50. Visit [seasideinspired.com](http://seasideinspired.com).

**4. Tie one on with this nautical knot** designed pouf, great for every season, indoors or out. Surya Ivory and Cobalt Nautical Knot Pouf, \$219. (972) 516-1865 or [polkadotpeacock.com](http://polkadotpeacock.com).

**5. Hang an inspirational framed art block** to give you an extra boost of confidence. Be Brave framed art block, \$85. (888) 365-0056 or [uncommongoods.com](http://uncommongoods.com).



**6. Light the way through any room** of your home with the natural elegance of this contemporary table lamp. Coral table lamp, \$560. (866) 223-2757 or [cottagehomefurniture.com](http://cottagehomefurniture.com).

**7. Add a touch of whimsical**, sea-creature charm to your kitchen and keep summertime in the air. Eleanor Stuart octopus tea towel, \$19. Visit [wolfandbadger.com](http://wolfandbadger.com).

**8. Add a nostalgic touch** with this vintage mirror. Round yellow metal-framed wall mirror, \$35. Visit [whiteowlcompany.com](http://whiteowlcompany.com).

**9. The classic sailor knot** gives this throw a fresh nautical look. Eco Designer Sailor Knots throw blanket, \$159.99. Visit [wayfair.com](http://wayfair.com).

**10. A captain-worthy structured desk** will be the statement piece of any office space. Asheworth Campaign desk, starting at \$6,498. (800) 349-4579 or [hickorychair.com](http://hickorychair.com).





◀ 11



◀ 12



◀ 14



13  
▼

15  
▼



16 ▶



**11. Serve up vintage nautical charm** on these white metal hand-painted wood-bottom trays. Metal & Wood white anchor trays, \$35. Visit [acottageinthecity.com](http://acottageinthecity.com).

**12. Bring the warmth of the beach** to your home with this hemp and beaded chandelier. Ro Sham Beaux Malibu blush beaded chandelier, \$1,414.50. Visit [district17.com](http://district17.com).

**13. Bring the ocean indoors** with this recycled glass table lamp. Blue Glass Cylinder Lamp, \$230. (866) 223-2757 or [cottagehomefurniture.com](http://cottagehomefurniture.com).

**14. Don't be thirsty** on your next adventure; drink up from this classic black and white enamel mug. Adventurer enamel mug, \$15. (773) 929-3600 or [shoparteffect.com](http://shoparteffect.com).

**15. Place this adorable pillow** on any bed to capture the essence of being a mermaid. A Mermaid Sleeps Here pillow cover, \$40. Call (251) 981-2311 or [obacanvasco.com](http://obacanvasco.com).

**16. Cotton canvas** and linen paired with teal and green will leave you daydreaming of the ocean blue. Waves Brushstroke patch pillow, \$219. Visit [shop.rebeccaatwood.com](http://shop.rebeccaatwood.com).

BY SARAH JANE O'KEEFE  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY NATE UTESCH

A kitchen goes from dated to stylish, thanks to a DIY renovation and timeless materials.



**B**ringing an outdated kitchen into the 21st century doesn't have to mean compromising on its original charm. These homeowners prove that a cottage-style kitchen can give a nod to its vintage roots while still sporting modern conveniences.

When Whitney and Nathan Utesch purchased their 1926 home in 2011, they quickly got to work remodeling and making it their own. The Fort Wayne, Indiana, home had gone through a previous kitchen update, but Whitney had bigger and better dreams for the space.

#### THE VISION

By removing a non-load-bearing wall that separated the formal dining room from the kitchen, the couple created an open floor plan and made room for a highly functional island perfect for entertaining. "I had an idea of what I wanted to do with the space—namely the island—from the moment we discovered the dividing wall could be removed," Whitney says.

With the wall gone, Whitney's plan came to life. Having used a white-on-white design in her previous kitchen, she wanted to replicate the feeling it created but give it a fresh take. "I love







**BEFORE**

the look of fresh, clean, light kitchens,” she says. “I decided on a warm gray color for all the cabinets, molding and built-ins—which lends itself to a contemporary look—but the subway tile, marble countertops and wood floors were a nice classic contrast.”



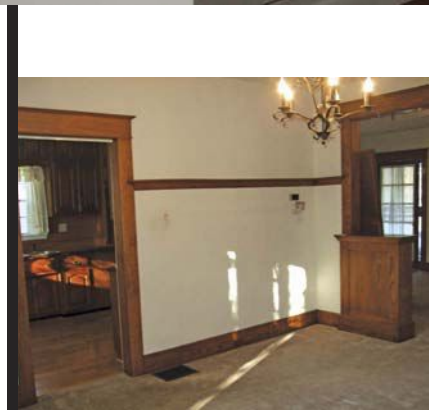
### DIY AND BUDGET SAVVY

In true DIY fashion, Whitney and Nathan did as much of the renovation themselves as they could—from demo to cabinet installation and putting in the backsplash. With the help of Whitney’s carpenter father and her sister, they were able to keep their costs low, while ensuring the final product looked exactly like Whitney’s vision.

To make the most of their budget, the couple flexed their bargain-hunting muscles. They turned to Ikea for their cabinets and managed to score them on clearance. Purchased in white, the cabinets were professionally painted to get the couple’s ideal shade of gray while still saving money. They also purchased the sink on clearance and the appliances on Black Friday.

**BY PLACING THE SINK IN THE ISLAND,** they maximized the counter space, the kitchen operates with the ideal triangular workflow and the chef feels part of the party.

## cottage kitchens



BEFORE

**THE BUFFET WAS FOUND** abandoned in the home's garage, attached to the wall. Whitney and Nate restored it and gave it new purpose as part of their built-in dining room.

### PERSONAL STYLE

With the addition of the kitchen island, the dining room area was a bit too tight for a traditional table setup. To honor the home's age, they opted for built-ins. "I found an antique piece of furniture nailed to a wall in our garage and incorporated it into the banquette/built-ins. We love that it looks original to the hundred-year-old house, and I love that the milk glass I collect pops against the gray," Whitney says.

What is now a favorite part of the kitchen was at first a hindrance—the brick chimney. "We painstakingly uncovered it from thick layers of plaster and

mortar. Once it was exposed, we were able to fully embrace its beauty instead of constantly being annoyed at having to work around it," Whitney says. Now the exposed brick adds warmth and a unique architecture to the space.

Throughout the kitchen and dining area Whitney showcases her vintage treasures by displaying retro finds from her trips to thrift stores and estate sales. Milk glass, Ball jars, mixing bowls, a pink scale and more suit the well-styled kitchen perfectly.

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Let there be light! Batteries: 2 "D" (not included)

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cottage kitchens





**OPPOSITE | WHEN THEY FIRST COMPLETED THE RENOVATION,** this area was left open and the microwave was stored on a wooden cart. By adding the shelf, Whitney and Nate maximized their available space and were able to make a more suitable home for the appliance as well as wine and glasses.



## STYLEFILE

**TYPE OF HOME:** 1926 Fort Wayne, Indiana, cottage

**BACKGROUND:** The homeowners wanted a kitchen that would feel light, bright and open.

**DESIGN ELEMENTS:** Warm gray cabinets and open shelving achieve the desired feel while offering classic appeal, thanks to subway tile, marble countertops and wood floors.

**DECORATING COLOR SCHEME:** A neutral palette of warm gray, crisp white and natural wood tones is accented by small doses of vintage-inspired turquoise.

**INNOVATIVE IDEA:** Rather than working around the brick chimney, the couple removed drywall to expose the brick. What was once obtrusive to the cabinet layout is now a focal point.

## DIY VS. PROFESSIONAL

WHILE WHITNEY AND NATE DID MUCH OF THEIR KITCHEN RENOVATION THEMSELVES, THERE WERE SOME TASKS THAT WERE BETTER LEFT TO THE PROS. TAKE A LOOK AT THEIR LIST, AND CONSIDER LEAVING ROOM IN YOUR BUDGET FOR HIRING OUT A FEW PROJECTS.

### DIY

- **DEMO.** Removing old cabinets and drywall is messy but doable.
- **WALL REMOVAL.** Once they knew the dining room wall was not load bearing, the couple was in the clear to knock it out.
- **FLOORING RESTORATION AND INSTALLATION.** You only need a few special tools and a weekend to install new floors. The sore muscles are worth the extra savings.
- **CABINET INSTALLATION.** Why not? Ask the seller for tips, read the instructions carefully and check your work with the level often.

### PROFESSIONAL

- **ELECTRICAL.** It is always better to call in a professional for safety, especially when working with electricity in an older home.
- **SPRAY FOAM INSULATION.** The expense of renting equipment and potential risks make this a job better left to the experts.
- **DRYWALL.** Hanging drywall can be a DIY task, but if time and budget allow, why not shave something off the to-do list and get a perfect finish?
- **COUNTERTOP INSTALLATION.** Installing a solid stone countertop on your own is tricky, and mishaps could have very expensive consequences.





# FAMILY-FRIENDLY SOPHISTICATION

This coastal home mimics the fresh and breezy feel of its location, but smart design choices help it withstand the wear of sand and sun.

BY SARAH JANE O'KEEFE  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY NAT REA



**HIDDEN STORAGE.** Shutters over the fireplace disguise the television. This feature was installed while the home was being built so the television wouldn't compete with or distract from the beach views.



**"I USED INDOOR/OUTDOOR FABRIC  
THROUGHOUT, SO THAT IT WILL  
WITHSTAND THE FAMILY'S ACTIVE  
LIFESTYLE AS WELL AS THE EVERYDAY WEAR  
AND TEAR OF BEACH LIFE."**

LOCATED RIGHT ON THE WATERS OF MATUNUCK Beach, Rhode Island, this shingle-style summer residence was redesigned to better fit the lifestyle of its active owners and their two young daughters.

#### CATALOG TO CUSTOM

After a long building process, the homeowners moved into the home in just 48 hours and filled the space with catalog furnishings. After a few years these pieces suffered from the wear of a sandy lifestyle by the beach, so the family turned to Kate Jackson for a solutions-oriented refresh.

Kate's challenge was to update the worn furnishings and solve the homeowners' design needs—which resonate with every family whatever their locale—function and durability. "I used indoor/outdoor fabric

throughout, so that it will withstand the family's active lifestyle as well as the everyday wear and tear of beach life," Kate says.

The family needed additional seating on the open first floor, so Kate introduced two new sofas, a pair of swivel chairs and a smarter furniture arrangement in the open-floor-plan living room. The swivel chairs address the need for functional seating without closing off the living room. Now the space feels open to the nearby kitchen and breakfast nook area.

"This home is definitely a nod to coastal style, but I didn't want to get too carried away," Kate says. "This is a dynamic family where both the homeowners own retail businesses and are around color all day, which is not something they wanted in their new design. I introduced a sophisticated and kid-friendly coastal-inspired design."





**EASY BREEZY.** The unlined white curtains are lightweight enough to take full advantage of ocean breezes that come in through the sash windows. Made of Sunbrella indoor/outdoor fabric, they can withstand the salty sea air.



UNLINED CURTAINS IN  
THE BREAKFAST NOOK  
FLOW FREELY WITH THE  
OCEAN BREEZES.







## BREAKFAST WITH A VIEW

A breakfast nook off the kitchen takes full advantage of the breathtaking coastline just outside the windows. Inspired by the breeze and the view, Kate opted for nearly all white in the space. To keep the dining area fully functional, she used Sunbrella fabric on the chairs for easy wipe-down and long-term durability.

Kate's main goal for the kitchen was to connect the interior with the outside and each indoor space with the others. This desire for flow led to the addition of stools at the kitchen island covered in a fun, but not overpowering, striped fabric. The dark indigo-blue hue on the stools is forgiving and resistant because, like the breakfast nook chairs, it is Sunbrella indoor/outdoor fabric.

## COOL COASTAL DESIGN

The living room feels warm and inviting without compromising on its coastal look, thanks to a careful mix of accessories such as old books, authentic nautical accessories and the like. "I went to a lot of local antique and consignment stores to purchase nautical accessories so the room wouldn't look like a catalog, but authentic and coastal," Kate says.

The interior's palette is neutral so as not to be too busy and distract from the view. This simple palette is timeless and the perfect backdrop for a busy family. Color is added through pillows and other accents—making it easy to update and change with time. **CB**

**LOCAL PERSONALITY.** Kate styled the main entryway to the home to offer a warm welcome. A salvaged antique mirror and maps of Rhode Island add vintage charm, while the chandelier is a whimsical yet nautical accent.

"I WANTED THE HOME ITSELF TO BE  
A SERENE PLACE WHERE THE WATER  
VIEWS STEAL THE SHOW,  
AND I PUNCHED IT UP WITH  
PILLOWS AND ACCESSORIES."







## GIRLS ONLY

The third floor of the home was designated for the homeowners' two young daughters, but after a scary sleepover story they were too hesitant to really use the space. Kate was tasked with creating a whole new look and feel for the space so they would want to hang out there—and it worked.

She asked the girls what colors they wanted. They chose pink, turquoise and green, and Kate used neutral colors to ground these selections. To make use of a landing area outside their bedroom door, Kate hung a swing chair, which is now a favorite feature. The slanted ceilings created a challenge for the layout, but Kate was able to fit in a sofa with a chaise without overcrowding the space. "I took full advantage of the half-circle window by adding a bench below it for extra seating," she says.

"As a mother of three, I understand that inevitable wear and tear from active kids and pets can sometimes spell disaster. That's why indoor/outdoor fabric is perfect for every family," Kate says. "I used Sunbrella fabrics while tackling the homeowners' challenges to make their home beautiful, functional and, most important, worry free."

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**CONVERTED HIDEAWAY.** The third floor is now a haven for the homeowners' two young daughters. The space serves as a play area just right for sleepovers and game nights. Kate let the girls pick the room's color scheme but used traditional furnishings and neutrals to ensure the space will last them for years to come.



**WELL-APPOINTED OUTDOORS.** The unique, three-tiered outdoor area features a conversation deck where Kate added another sectional—perfect for entertaining and lounging.





**AL FRESCO.** The second tier has a dining table with navy blue captain's chairs and bench seating. Just a few steps below is the final tier, where the family and guests can lounge by the water.



# SERENE AND BREEZY

The unlikely pairing of minimalism and beachy aesthetics creates a peaceful harbor for family life.

BY SARAH YOON  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRET GUM  
STYLED BY JICKIE TORRES





**DÉCOR FLIP-FLOP.** The dining room chandelier was purchased for the stairway and the stairway's chandelier for the dining room, "but it worked better to do the opposite," Anne says. Sometimes you need to test something out in a few rooms until you find the perfect pairing.

THE OLDEST HOUSE IN EL SEGUNDO, CALIFORNIA, HAS OFFICIALLY MET THE MODERN AGE. WHEN DESIGNER ANNE COLLARD PURCHASED THE 1906 HOME, IT WAS DESTINED FOR A FAMILY-FRIENDLY SPRUCE UP. BUT WITH STRUCTURAL DEFECTS AND OUTDATED EARTHQUAKE SAFETY, THE HOME REQUIRED MUCH MORE.

## REMODELING TWISTS AND TURNS

The front of the house, which looks very much as it always did, belies how much space was added to the structure. Aiming to keep the historic features of the home without expanding the footprint in a way that would affect the neighborhood, Anne and her team instead built back and down into a slope—tucking in a basement that gave the family much needed square footage. But the exterior is only one of a few hints of the home's history. Throughout the remodeling process, more and more needed updating. "We had to replace three walls and make them earthquake proof," Anne says.

Though Anne focused on bringing the house up to code, she also wanted it to fit her family's needs. "We found out a month after we bought the house that I was pregnant with our fourth child," Anne says. "So we had to add on another bedroom." This joyful addition brought an unexpected twist to the renovation process, as they worked hard to plan everything well and acquire the necessary permits along the way. "It was definitely a labor of love," Anne comments.

**THE HOME EMBRACES THE EBB AND FLOW OF GUESTS** ALONG WITH THE BUSTLE OF EVERYDAY LIFE. THE FRENCH DOORS, WIDE DECK AND MANY WINDOWS CREATE A SENSE OF FLOW.

## COMFORTABLE CURRENTS

Anne wanted the home to be "a good entertaining house but also a good kid house." To keep it simple, Anne combined her two goals into one main agenda: "I wanted a house that was very calm and soothing to be in," she says. "With a lot of people living under the roof I didn't want to be tripping over everybody."





**SIMPLICITY AND SERENITY.**

Varying neutrals, from bright white to sandy tan, give the sitting room a calming aesthetic. A breeze through the window further heightens the open and inviting atmosphere.





**WORKING WITH STYLE.** A simple yet worn vintage desk proves that your office space doesn't have to be cookie cutter. This small spot is by the front window and perfect for inspired work.





The home embraces the ebb and flow of guests along with the bustle of everyday life. The French doors, wide deck and many windows create a sense of flow. The open spaces help everyone feel welcome. Even those spaces you might take for granted, such as the path between the kitchen island and the counters, Anne adjusted to fit their lifestyle. “We made everything much wider,” she explains, creating a four-foot wide path instead of the customary three.

## COASTAL TRANQUILITY

The home’s openness not only helps with practical day-to-day usage, but also encourages a tranquil atmosphere. The

home is perfectly situated for a breezy, beachy atmosphere. Since Anne leans toward minimalism, she lets the color palette speak for itself. White walls and neutral details are prominent throughout. A cobalt blue door creates an energetic contrast that gets perpetuated in striped rugs and oceanic artworks. Each addition strengthens the parallel between the home’s aesthetic and the calming swell of the surf.

The more obvious beachy elements come through Anne’s personal history, rather than a touristy look. She created her own version of the coastal aesthetic. “I grew up in Nantucket, so it’s kind of all I know,” she says. “For example, the painting over the

**| TOP LEFT | CURATING THE COAST.** When collecting something as common as a shell, you can be as picky as you want. Keep only the best for display and toss the rest into a craft bin or back on the beach.

**| TOP RIGHT | DECORATING WITH MEMORIES.** A wooden fish is yet another piece of family history that melds perfectly with the home’s aesthetic. “I got that at an antique store about twenty-five years ago,” Anne says.

**| BOTTOM LEFT | CENTRAL COMMAND.** A second home desk gives Anne space to organize life, from the kids’ schedules to party plans. Photo boxes hide the miscellaneous clutter that can so easily collect.

ANNE WANTED THE HOME TO BE **"A GOOD ENTERTAINING HOUSE BUT ALSO A GOOD KID HOUSE."**

TO KEEP IT SIMPLE, ANNE COMBINED HER TWO GOALS INTO ONE MAIN AGENDA: "I WANTED A HOUSE THAT WAS VERY CALM AND SOOTHING TO BE IN," SHE SAYS. "WITH A LOT OF PEOPLE LIVING UNDER THE ROOF I DIDN'T WANT TO BE TRIPPING OVER EVERYBODY."







IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

**VINTAGE COOKING.** Choosing one focal point helps anchor the design of an entire room. "I wanted the center of attention for the kitchen to be the stove, and I wanted to see it when I walked into the house," Anne says. "It's just like a piece of jewelry. It's so pretty."

fireplace is from a really well known Nantucket artist." Even the shells on the mantel are from the historical Massachusetts island. Since both she and her mom collect shells, the display of shells brings a bit of her own childhood into the home as she raises her four children.

#### A BLANK CANVAS

A well designed home can be both kid-friendly and beautiful. Though you wouldn't guess it initially, the rugs throughout the house are made from recycled plastics. They're durable enough to take daily wear and be hosed off when they get grimy. And since Anne's aesthetic is so minimal, it's easy to keep the house clutter free. No unnecessary knickknacks are poised to be knocked over and broken; no competing colors blare out or demand attention.



**FAMILY HISTORY.**

"That's the painting that my grandmother left me," Anne says. "It was done by a student at the private school in Colorado where my grandfather used to be the headmaster."







## Minimalistic Décor

Create a coastal look that feels natural to your home.

**SET THE MOOD WITH COLORS THAT REFLECT YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH THE BEACH.** "The whole feeling I wanted was to have it be very calm," Anne says. She arranged a palette with shades of white and pops of blue that evokes images of sand and surf.

**BRING NATURE INSIDE.** Elements such as rocks, shells, indoor plants and even bottled sand can give texture to the decor. If you sprinkle them in, you will hint at a salty breeze without boasting of an overstated theme.

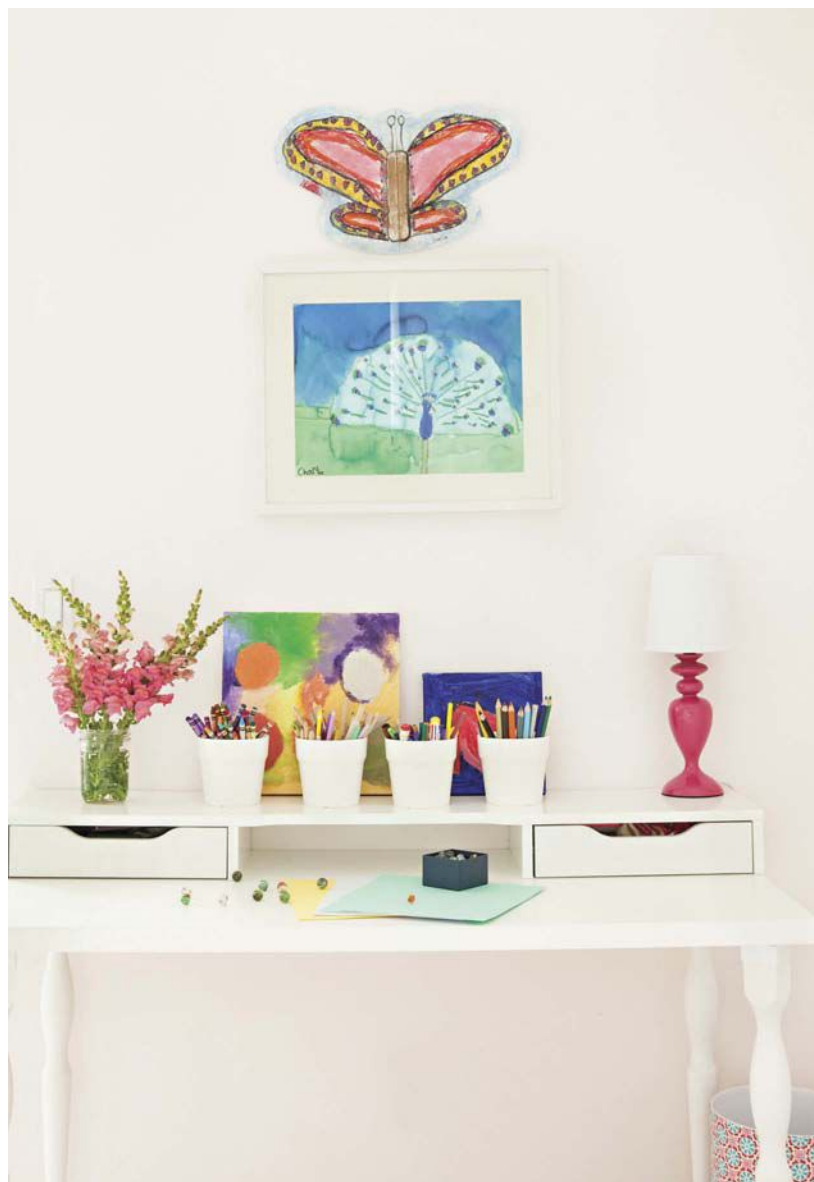
**POLISH THE LOOK WITH ART.** A few tasteful paintings or sculptures can help set the atmosphere. Anne's sitting area is a restful retreat, embellished by her fish carving and seascape painting.

**FOSTER YOUR PERSONAL AESTHETIC.** Whatever beachy elements you draw into your home, build your aesthetic over time by bringing in only the décor that really speaks to you.

"I FEEL LIKE KEEPING IT KIND OF MINIMAL—IT'S LIKE ELIMINATING THE NOISE IN YOUR HEAD, BUT IT'S ELIMINATING THE NOISE IN YOUR SPACE."

**OPEN TO INTERPRETATION.** A soft shade of pink sets the little girl's bedroom apart from the rest of the house. Anne left the room minimalist as well, letting the walls serve as a blank canvas for her daughter's creativity.





Though the children's walls are the only ones in the house with color—Petal Pink and Sea Foam by Benjamin Moore—their rooms are just as serenely minimal as the rest of the house. One caveat, however, offers a whole range of aesthetic freedom. "I have a lot of art supplies for them to do as much art as they can," Anne explains. It manifests in wall art, crafts and whatever her children want to create. She gives them a blank canvas, creates a calm nurturing environment and enjoys seeing where the breeze will take them. **CB**

SEE SOURCES, PAGE 144.



**| TOP LEFT | STUDIO SPACE.** As an artist herself, Anne encourages her children to play with color. She creates ample opportunity to stretch imaginations and creative abilities by setting up art stations and offering supplies.

**| LEFT | MAKE YOUR OWN MURAL.** Décor is best when it's personal. Anne drew the outlines of a rocket and a hot air balloon on butcher paper and then colored them in with her kids.

THE HOME'S OPENNESS NOT ONLY HELPS  
WITH PRACTICAL DAY-TO-DAY USAGE,  
**BUT ALSO ENCOURAGES A TRANQUIL  
ATMOSPHERE.**







**RELAXED RETREATS.** The master bedroom pairs fresh greens with gray and white. Anne wanted a very calm feeling.



**| LEFT | SIMPLE AND LINEAR.** Anne decided early on in the remodel to keep the home's new parts simple and linear. On the first floor, the staircase bisects the house, dividing it in two. On one side is the living room and den; on the other, the open-plan kitchen and dining room.

**SIMPLE SOLUTIONS.** Original floors were painted gray both as a budget saver and as a throwback to Anne's days in Nantucket, where "a lot of the houses have a floor painted like that." The color pairs with the white walls and keeps the space looking clean.









**FEELING BLUE.** The couple takes their color inspirations from nature and from all over the world. The living room has a collected feel, thanks to a traditional Americana striped rug paired with tailored sofas with classic piping in a contrast color. On the mantel is a collection of vintage seltzer bottles in their original delivery crates. Suzani pillows add a global spin.





# BLUE mood

Inspired by chic trends, beach living and vintage charm, this Hamptons home straddles the line between high fashion and high tide.

WRITTEN AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY COSTAS PICADAS/GAP INTERIORS

ANY REALTOR WILL TELL YOU A HOME WITH A VIEW IS ALWAYS a winner. But for Sachin and Babi Ahlulalia, the view they fell in love wasn't that of a sweeping city skyline, a mountainous landscape or the undulating waves of a coast. It was a very green and verdant garden that surrounded a nondescript home in the Hamptons.

With a large curved swimming pool and stunning landscaped grounds that overlook a vineyard, the property drew the couple in even before they saw the inside of the house. "It's a beautiful garden with different colors and textures for every season, starting with the tree blossom in April," Sachin says.

They enjoy gardening and have a small vegetable patch, growing fresh food. "It's a perfect location for us," she says. "We have the country on one side and on the beaches just down the way, so many spectacular views."





**PERFECTLY PUNCTUATED.** Sachin chose a scheme for the living room that was mostly traditional.

Interesting accents change up the look, including rustic flea-market side tables, tribal-print pillows and a few industrial touches in the coffee table and lighting.







## ART OF DESIGN

Sachin and Babi met as students at the Fashion Institute of Technology; thus their passion for and great knowledge of textiles profoundly influences the look of their home.

The ground floor flows effortlessly from the large entrance hall, through the living room to the kitchen. There are three floors, including the basement with huge sliding glass doors, pouring light through the space so it doesn't feel like a basement at all. The master bedroom is also on the ground floor with an ensuite bathroom, and upstairs there are three bedrooms: two for their daughters and a guest room.

The entire house is bathed in light, and the airy feeling is enhanced by the high ceilings. The couple left the windows simply dressed so they could take full advantage of the incredible vistas.

## COLOR THEORY

As a nod to their locale and also for their soothing and relaxing qualities, they chose a color palette that echoes the sea, sky and countryside around them. "Blue tones can feel both casual and chic at the same time—it's a great option if you're going for a casual but elegant feel," Sachin says.





It helps that Babi and Sachin, who own Ankasa, a luxury home furnishing brand, have access to new styles often. Nonetheless, they advocate choosing classic colors for the main furnishings and embellishing with other colors in the accents. Some of their beautifully embroidered throw pillows add color and summery style to the muted tones of their living room suite. "These throws blend sophisticated Belgian linen, Egyptian cotton and age-old techniques such as Shibori dyeing and Balinese block printing," Sachin says.

**| ABOVE LEFT | UNIQUE ART.** How's this for a simple yet stunning project? Print out your favorite quotes in a typewriter-style font; then frame them in a grouping for big impact.

**| ABOVE | TWO IS BETTER THAN ONE.** A pair of vintage rolling carts forms one substantial dry bar/bar cart setup. Always snatch up things in pairs if you can—it allows for greater flexibility and design impact in the myriad ways you can use them.





**GO GRAPHIC.** The well-travelled duo love adding décor with a sense of humor. This art print shows guests where their place is, while above the door salvage sign letters spell out a favorite locale during the couple's trip to Greece.







**FABULOUS FINDS.** On the mantel is a collection of vintage seltzer bottles in their original delivery crates. A set of boat pulleys on a table behind the couch makes for interesting objets d'art that also underscore the home's nautical flair.

**PRIME POTENTIAL.** The formal dining room is a blank canvas that can be updated easily for any occasion. Sachin chose Louis-style chairs with a coordinating vintage-style table that all add elegance and will never go out of style.

**OPEN INVITATION.** The open floor plan adds to the light and bright appeal of the home. Sachin uses area rugs to help define spaces and create traffic flow in the room.





## MAKE A CHARMING MIX

Elegant touches are all over the house. But there is also a good dose of humor and vintage flair too. Above one dining table visible from the living room, a sign instructing hippies to use the back door points playfully to the patio. The tables and chairs are rustic wood and not matching sets, and make this stylish house a real home—comfortable and cozy.

The house is also full of interesting objects, vintage finds and framed artwork. “We try to collect Indian contemporary art when we can. In fact, we have more art than we have walls,” Babi adds.

A line of old seltzer bottles decorates the mantelpiece, and there are a few collections—some old photographs from a Mumbai antiques shop and a collection of rusty boat pulleys and blocks. There is even a display of vintage tennis racquets and fishing nets on the wall of the basement den. All these elements combine not only to speak of the couple's ancestry and interests but also to add an eclectic personal mix to the décor.



THE ENTIRE HOUSE IS BATHED IN LIGHT, AND THE AIRY FEELING IS ENHANCED BY THE HIGH CEILINGS. THE COUPLE LEFT THE WINDOWS SIMPLY DRESSED SO THEY COULD TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THE INCREDIBLE VISTAS.

## SEASIDE THEME

Of course being in the Hamptons, the couple couldn't ignore a coastal theme. The blue stripes and painted wood give the living room a nautical vibe, as does the whitewashed open kitchen. There is an outdoor dining and living area on the large patio right outside the kitchen, where they like to spend a lot of their time. Babi and Sachin love entertaining friends at their home. “We have three dining tables,” Babi says with a smile. The outside space that was so important to them really is brought into the house, large windows are kept clear and clean, and the back doors are more often open than closed. **CB**





**CLASSIC KITCHEN.** Sleek white and minimal clutter keep the small kitchen open and functional. Beadboard is a cottage classic, while overdyeed striped rugs add a fashionable flair.








**STATELY AND SERENE.** The master bedroom is subtly luxurious with an embroidered bed in muted tones, dark wood floor and a modern chandelier. This is a tranquil room with luscious fabrics adding texture and warmth.

**| OPPOSITE TOP RIGHT | COMPARE AND CONTRAST.** Black and white is a timeless bathroom combination. Paired with medallion trim and fluted molding, the vanity suite is classic and sophisticated.







**ROOM WITH A VIEW.** Why hide a gorgeous garden view behind unnecessary window coverings? Here sheer panels frame the verdant view.



"BLUE TONES CAN FEEL BOTH CASUAL AND CHIC AT THE SAME TIME—IT'S A GREAT OPTION IF YOU'RE GOING FOR A CASUAL BUT ELEGANT FEEL," SACHIN SAYS.



**ALL TUCKED IN.** The guest bedroom is an extra cozy space thanks to a soothing deep blue wall color and a nest-like bed perfectly perched under the eaves of the gable.





THE GARDEN COMES  
ALIVE THANKS TO A  
PATIO AREA  
FESTOONED WITH  
BRIGHT THROWS  
AND ELEGANT  
ACCENTS.

**IN FULL BLOOM.** Dreamy hydrangeas, a classic northeast bloom, combine with Japanese maple and evergreen conifers for a dynamic landscape full of colors and textures that look good all year round.












# Country Cottage, CITYCHIC

See how color, light and elegant textures combine in this cottage on the cape.

BY AUTUMN KRAUSS  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICHAEL J. LEE





**CHEER UP.** Incorporating the homeowners' love for patterns, Elizabeth included two cheery gingham ottomans, perfectly offsetting the beige armchairs and couch but not distracting from the view.





THE FIRST RULE OF COASTAL DECORATING is find the view; then dress everything else accordingly. When Elizabeth Swartz's clients requested a country cottage with upscale, city style, she knew one thing would be primary: the stunning coastal landscape. The original split-level, three-bedroom Massachusetts home was nestled right next to the waterfront but didn't highlight the breathtaking views.

"This was a completely new construction on an existing footprint," Elizabeth says. "It was important for the new house to take advantage of the fabulous views."

The results are a two-story, four-bedroom masterpiece that features a glass-enclosed sunroom, windowed breakfast nook, and indoor and outdoor kitchens, all designed to let in the ever-changing sky and sea. With sharp pops of color, timeless furnishings and unique uses of patterns, Elizabeth created a seaside paradise without succumbing to the obvious themes of creams and seashells.

## SUNROOM BLISS

While lots of East Coast homeowners use their cottages for weekend getaways, Elizabeth's clients wanted one place for both weekday and weekend living. Since they have grown children, they requested both gathering places for get-togethers and hideaways for focused work. With its huge windows, the sunroom was the perfect balance for their needs, a stunning place for reflection that could easily double as a comfy spot for hangouts. "We wanted to celebrate the water and provide a fun, casual environment," Elizabeth says.

The three walls were framed in windows and Elizabeth selected clean white paint, roll-up blinds and green quartzite tiles for the floor. The furniture is a mix of traditional and casual pieces that kept the focus on the windows. Elizabeth incorporated patterns and pops of color, giving the sunroom a summery feel year round.

## | OPPOSITE | MAKE IT OVER.

The homeowner incorporated a lot of her existing furnishings but had them restyled for a more casual, fun look. She wanted a comfortable yet traditional vibe.









**HAPPY PLACE.** The homeowners wanted their home to be comfortable for family gatherings, so Elizabeth created a warm and inviting environment in the living room with botanical-print armchairs and a light blue couch.





THE FURNITURE IS A MIX OF TRADITIONAL AND CASUAL PIECES THAT KEPT THE FOCUS ON THE WINDOWS.

#### BREAKFAST SANCTUARY

Elizabeth oversaw construction on a custom dining nook designed to “bump out” from the room and hand selected brightly colored striped fabric for custom cushions and curtains. While the homeowners chose tranquil hues in other areas of the home, they loved explosions of color in artful places, including the nook, where color offset the dark-stained oak floors.

“The nook’s bold colors and patterns were chosen to be bright, cheerful and fun,” Elizabeth says. “They help create a more casual look and feel, while allowing the traditionally detailed custom cabinetry, millwork and furnishings to anchor the spaces.”

#### CLEVER KITCHENS

Easily the house’s crown jewels, the indoor and outdoor kitchens allow the homeowners to seamlessly transition between settings and give them the option to entertain either inside or out in the open. Elizabeth included a sink, grill and burner in the outdoor kitchen, specifically for cooking lobsters. “The homeowners are known for their lobster dinners on the water,” she says. The couple often take their skiff across the harbor to the farmer’s market and purchase lobsters from the back of a truck.



**FUN FIRST.** Elizabeth found several patterned fabrics to reupholster the homeowners’ existing furniture. The only requirement was that they were playful so the rooms didn’t feel too formal.









WITH SHARP POPS OF COLOR, TIMELESS FURNISHINGS AND UNIQUE USES OF PATTERNS, ELIZABETH CREATED A SEASIDE PARADISE WITHOUT SUCCUMBING TO THE OBVIOUS THEMES OF CREAMS AND SEASHELLS.

The appliances were purchased as stainless steel bodies, since they would be durable and provide weather-tight storage. The bodies were inserted into wood surroundings that tied together both kitchens, giving them an integrated look.

Stunning color interplay and breathtaking views make this home the ideal seaside getaway for this busy couple. It functions wonderfully for the two of them yet effortlessly accommodates visits from their children and grandchildren, too—truly the perfect city-chic, country cottage. **CB**

SEE SOURCES, PAGE 144

**| OPPOSITE | RAINBOW SHERBET.** The bright color theme continues in the breakfast nook where pinks, green and citrus tones capitalize on the bay window light, making a sweet sunny spot. The window treatments, allowing the couple to let in the coastal breezes, were motorized for their convenience.

**ISLAND STYLE.** The long, narrow kitchen island sports drawers for seamless extra storage.

**WITH FEELING.** Brass Blue Brushed marble topped the kitchen counters and created a dramatic backsplash. Elizabeth picked it for its textured finish.











Benjamin  
Moore's Rosy  
Blush pink

**ROSE-COLORED GLASSES.** In order to give the home study a bright, bold aesthetic, Elizabeth selected Benjamin Moore's Rosy Blush pink for the main wall. It created a focal point against the white furniture and custom wool carpets.

**PASTEL PALETTE.** While statement colors were used in the office and bathroom, the homeowners wanted a tranquil environment in their master bedroom and opted for soft greens and blues to tie in with their waterfront view. The room was designed to be opened up or closed off, depending on their needs.



## Design With a View

Floor-to-ceiling windows are a great way to keep your view front and center. However, opt for two or three stacked windows instead of just one big one. That way, your windows will have visual appeal and dimension.

Consider motorizing your window treatments. It can be difficult to draw curtains on large windows, but you will want to control the light and your privacy.

WHETHER YOU ARE DESIGNING YOUR SPACE AROUND A LUSH BACKYARD, OCEAN VIEW OR MOUNTAIN LANDSCAPE, HERE ARE SOME THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND.

Make sure your window coverings enhance or compliment the great view—rather than distract from it.

Keep your furnishings a little subtle. If you have a stunning view, opt for classically elegant pieces in calming colors. It will keep the focus on the view without competing with it.





**STONE FACED.** The master bathroom featured a diverse use of marble, including Alba Chiara slabs chosen for their beautiful green and rose-colored veins.



**FINISHING TOUCHES.** Cosa Calacatta marble tiles were used in the shower and accented with white Caesar Stone shower jambs.







# Easy Living

This home with nontraditional coastal décor still emanates the fun, free spirit of the beach.

BY VICTORIA VAN VLEAR

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ERIKA BIERMAN





## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO HAVE A COASTAL HOME?

**BRANCH OUT.** Not everything in a coastal home needs to remind you of the ocean. A little diversity will help add depth to the décor.

DOES THE THEME ALWAYS NECESSITATE SHADES OF BLUE, SEASHELLS ON THE COFFEE TABLE AND DRIFTWOOD MIRRORS IN THE BATHROOM? DESIGNER CHARMEAN NEITHART DOESN'T THINK SO. WHEN A FAMILY HIRED HER TO DESIGN THEIR NEW HOME, SHE FOCUSED ON THEIR EXPERIENCE OF THE BEACH AND INCORPORATED FUN, BRIGHT COLORS INSTEAD OF THE TYPICAL, SOMETIMES OVERUSED, COASTAL DÉCOR. HERE'S HOW SHE DID IT.



CHARMEAN USED ARTWORK AND ACCESSORIES TO REMIND THE INHABITANTS OF THEIR BEACH EXPERIENCES.





**WALL-MOUNT MEMORIES.** Charmean used a palm tree painting on the wall to incorporate the coastal theme in an unusual way. She already had one ocean painting in the room, so she didn't want another.





## MAKING THINGS PRACTICAL

Charmean says several key factors help her determine the direction of a design: the needs for the space, the current state of the building and the available budget. "I get paid to give people what they're asking for," Charmean says, but sometimes this means rethinking the client's vision to create a practical living space that works with the existing architecture. "Sometimes we have to rethink what's possible based on what's already there," she says.

This house is in Altadena, California, which sits in the foothills of the San Gabriel mountains above Los Angeles, a community that has older homes with great character. This home has 1,700 square feet with three bedrooms and two baths, which means that each room is a small space. Charmean had to keep an eye on the scale of the renovations and furniture to make sure nothing was too large for the space. "Almost everything I did was in an effort to make things feel bigger," she says.

She also had to watch her clients' budget. "Most people don't know how much things actually cost," Charmean says. "I often have to be frank with people about what they have to spend." As

"THE OCEAN IS INFLUENTIAL FOR A LOT OF PEOPLE. I FOCUS ON THE EXPERIENCE—WHAT HAPPENED THAT MADE THEM CONNECT TO THE OCEAN?"







**OPEN AND AIRY.** With too much furniture, this room could look crowded. Instead, Charmean kept things simple with a table, chairs and built-in cabinets. To keep it from feeling too minimal, Charmean chose items with interesting textures and unique features, such as the apple-bucket-inspired pendant and the shabby painted chairs.

with any budget, the trick is to take care of the large items first. "You have to prioritize what's really important," Charmean says. For this house, most of the budget would go toward the décor, but she began with a few key essentials.

## FIRST THINGS FIRST

Before thinking about pillows and lampshades, Charmean had to make sure the floor plan was practical and the architecture was clean and livable. So she started with the basics. "The first thing we did was put hardwood floors in the whole house," Charmean says. She also replaced the crown molding and baseboards, which were old and starting to look shabby. This was a tactical decision. New floors and trim spruced up the home without having to spend a lot of money on a complete remodel.

Charmean kept the other architectural changes to a minimum. The wall between the dining and living rooms had a standard-sized doorway, but Charmean wanted the rooms to feel less stuffy. "We opened up the doorway a good three feet to make it an airier entrance to the living room," Charmean says. She also redesigned the peninsula countertop in the kitchen to



create a wider traffic path from the door to the dining room, which helped to make the kitchen feel roomier.

## EXPERIENCE THE COAST

Once the structural renovations were complete, Charmean turned her attention to the décor. The clients' previous home had also sported a coastal theme, but the colors were subdued and the family was ready for a change. "They wanted it to be a little silly," Charmean says. So she incorporated bright

**SMALLER PENINSULA.** The original kitchen counter blocked traffic to and from the door. Charmean scaled the piece back so that it's easier to move around in the busy area.





blues and greens into the design—still beachy, but also fun and light-hearted.

Whenever she designs a coastal theme, Charmean tries not to automatically reach for the typical accessories of driftwood and seashells. "I try not to be too cliché with the décor," she says. Instead, she designs around her clients' experience of the coast. "The ocean is influential for a lot of people," Charmean says. "I focus on the experience—what happened that made them connect to the ocean?"

In this house, Charmean used the artwork and accessories to remind the inhabitants of

their beach experiences. The coffee table holds items the family has collected on their visits to the beach, and other accessories around the home reflect their real experiences. The trick is to tailor the décor to the people, not the other way around. "Interior design is about how the family uses their home," Charmean says. "It's not a showcase where no one will ever live." **CB**

SEE SOURCES, PAGE 144

**RECLAIMED WOOD.** If you don't want driftwood floating around your home, incorporate the sea-stained look with a rustic wood side table or coffee table.









# Coastal Style:

## Make It Yours

Use these questions to help you create your own personal seaside look.

### WHAT'S YOUR BEST BEACH MEMORY?

If it's visiting tide pools as a child, you might want to use shaggy pillows and rugs to remind you of waving sea anemones. If you remember sunny afternoons biking along a boardwalk, some bicycle accessories may be in your future.

### WHAT COLORS DO YOU ASSOCIATE WITH THE OCEAN?

Your initial answer may be "blue," but think again. Is it the bright turquoise of the warm Hawaiian coast or the gray blue of a stormy beach in New England? It might even be the bright orange of a starfish you found or the pink of a stunning ocean sunset.

### WHAT DO YOU MISS ABOUT THE OCEAN WHEN YOU'RE AWAY?

Maybe it's the open feeling of the beach—then make sure not to clutter your home, but leave it feeling airy. If it's the great surfing waves, add some wave art to your walls, or even hang a surfboard as a decorative memento.



### | OPPOSITE | PATTERNS ON

**PATTERNS.** In the bedroom, the wallpaper, bedspread and lampshade all have different patterns, but their similar color scheme allows them to coexist without competing.

**| TOP | ADD A LITTLE VINTAGE.** The cabinet in the bedroom is from a vintage boutique. The color blends well with the palette in the rest of the house and adds a touch of vintage to the décor.

### | LEFT | WALLPAPER WONDER.

Wallpaper can be fun, but if you're worried that it will be too overwhelming, scale back with one or two solid walls. This will help balance the room.



# Coastal Cottage

## MAKEOVER

WRITTEN, PHOTOGRAPHED AND STYLED BY MELINDA GRAHAM

With a few vintage details and summery colors, update a basic bedroom into a charming retreat.



### tip

#### RULE OF THUMB:

Mix one bold print with a simple stripe. If you are intimidated by mixing and matching, keep to three patterns or fewer and don't stray from your color scheme.

**MIXING AND MATCHING PATTERNS** can be tricky, but this bedroom is so spacious it can handle pattern without overwhelming. The beautiful blue scrolling vine pattern on the quilt takes center stage and can hold its own against the bold stripe of the area rug. The whimsical fish throw pillows pull everything together. It all works because the patterns don't fight with one another and all the colors are from the same primary palette.



**MIXING VINTAGE ACCESSORIES** with new furnishings will add instant interest and character to a room. A new white bench holds the inspiration print for the room. It is flanked by sea life treasures, an antique quilt and a few vintage accessories. The result is perfectly charming.





**NEW FURNITURE** can be given character by adding personal and vintage touches. A few starfish are right at home next to a carved wooden seabird, while old blue-glass bottles and books with beautiful bindings look lovely illuminated under an old lamp.

Once the big decisions like paint colors and furniture have been made, it's time for the decorating fun to really begin. Giving a room personality means selecting the right finishing touches that make a house feel like a home.

Situated on a small island, this lovely home features a cottage-style bedroom with absolutely terrific bones. The room is open and spacious, the windows allow for plenty of light, the material selections echo the bungalow vibe, the colors are relaxing and the furnishings perfectly meet the homeowners' needs. But take it to the next level by featuring wonderful treasures that speak to the surrounding salt air, sea breezes and easy-going beach lifestyle. With the addition of a few thoughtfully selected accessories and an infusion of color, the room was transformed from simply furnished to fun and festive. It really is "all in the details."



HERE ARE A FEW HINTS TO HELP YOU SELECT THE RIGHT FINISHING TOUCHES TO DRESS UP YOUR EXISTING DÉCOR.

**Color.** The first thing to do is to decide on accent colors. Search for an inspiration item—a piece of art or a print, area rug or piece of fabric. Use this item as your reference for making all accessory selections.

**Make a Checklist.** Look at every surface in the room and address each one separately. Divide the room into areas to conquer, and make a list: floors, walls and furniture (table tops, beds, upholstered pieces). Then expand the list to make your accessory wish list: area rug, pictures, lamps, bedding, throw blankets and throw pillows.

**Big to Small.** Try to find the largest pieces on the wish list first; then work down to the smallest detail. In this case the bedding and area rug were the first selections; then art/pictures, accent pillows and, lastly, small accessories.

«**TIP:** Starting with the largest items first will help determine each subsequent choice. It's a mistake to go out and find loads of accessories first. Add one item at a time starting with the largest and working down in scale. This may help eliminate the danger of "overdoing it."

**Make It Personal.** When making accessory selections don't forget to add items that are special to you. A room's character grows when layers of personal touches are added, such as photographs and keepsakes. This is how a space grows from a room into a reflection of you. Just as you would add items to a memory box or scrapbook, introduce items into the room that spark memories and encourage daydreaming.

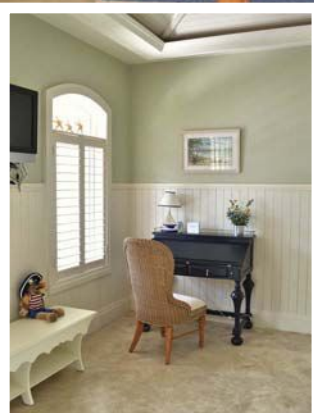
«**TIP:** Don't be afraid to mix old with new. The idea of decorating with vintage finds is wonderful. Old pieces inherently have so much character, but vintage and antique furnishings may not always be ideal. To infuse character into a space with primarily new furniture, add vintage accessories. A mix of old and new will meet the needs of both function and personal style.

**Edit.** Dressing a room is very much like getting dressed for a special occasion. Try to be mindful of the space in its entirety. Then follow the advice of the fashion icon Coco Chanel: "Before you leave the house, look in the mirror and remove one accessory." Apply this form of self-editing to your décor.





**MIXING FURNITURE** styles is a way to keep a room from looking too staged. The more fun you have with a space, the more relaxed and comfortable it will be. Here the black desk pairs beautifully with a natural-fiber woven chair. The mix of finishes and textures is unexpected. It reflects the beach setting while maintaining a refined presence.



#### BEFORE

This bungalow bedroom had the perfect bones: beautiful material choices, paint colors and furnishings. It was the ideal beginning to a beach-themed happily-ever-after.



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**\$34 plus shipping and handling\***



### NO. 3 BLACK ECHO RECYCLED CANVAS BUCKET

Use this attractive canvas bucket to organize and keep things handy in your office, family room or kids' room. Hand-printed on 100% recycled cotton canvas with vegetable-based inks, it is great for display and makes an ideal gift.

Material : %100 Recycled Cotton

Year Crafted/Country of Origin : India

Size : 4.5" x 4.5" x 4"

**\$12 plus shipping and handling\***



### VINTAGE-STYLE MAGAZINE RACK

Make a functional-cum-style statement with this vintage-style magazine rack. Its lightly distressed white patina adds to shabby-romantic or vintage-style rooms.

Measures 15" W x 13.50" H.

**\$34.95 plus shipping and handling\***

# A SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE

This big-boy bedroom has fresh design tricks you can use for any space.

BY VICTORIA VAN VLEAR  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JESSICA DELANEY

THE DIFFICULTY OF DESIGNING A ROOM for a small child is that young tastes change so quickly. One month the favorite is dinosaurs—a year later, it's racecars. When it was time to turn Knox's nursery into a big-boy bedroom, mom and designer Dina Holland of Honey and Fitz knew she didn't want to redo the room every few years to cater to her son's changing fancies. She needed a classic design that was both fun and lasting. Here's how she did it.

## LEAD WITH THE LAYOUT

The first obstacle Dina had to overcome was the room's layout. "Whenever I come to a new project, I always tackle the floor plan first," she says. "Until you figure out your floor plan, you can't do anything."

This particular room presented a few challenges. The space isn't a clean rectangle—it has odd angles that made furniture placement tricky. One wall contains the closet doors, while the radiator protrudes from another wall. "It was difficult to figure out where to put the bed," Dina says.







**DECORATING EXERCISE.** Dina didn't want to do a full remodel, so she used her interior decorating skills to work within the confines of the space. "This was an exercise in what you can do with just interior décor," she says.











A full architectural remodel wasn't in the scope of the project, so Dina had to work with what she had. She finally settled on the back wall with the large bay windows. "I had to reconcile myself to not being able to see the full windows from inside," she says. But sometimes the best way forward is a compromise with the space. Once Dina had the bed in place, she laid out the rest of the floor plan so she could move on to the fun part—accessories.

### ADVENTUROUS INSPIRATION

When it comes to choosing a theme, Dina starts with a bit of inspiration. "I usually start the theme by picking one piece that inspires the space," she says. For Knox's room, she didn't have a specific direction in mind, but she kept her eyes open. "I found a postcard that says, 'The World Is Your Oyster,' and I loved the sentiment that you can do whatever you want."

This single piece inspired the rest of the room. "Little kids go out on adventures," Dina says. "I wanted to embody the fun imagination-fueled spirit that lives in every child." This is also a theme Knox can grow into—big boys can have just as many adventures as little

ones. "I like to pick the feeling I want in the room," Dina says. "I don't want to pin myself in a corner, because then I'd be redecorating every year, which gets expensive." Instead, the theme can cater to the starry-eyed imagination of a little boy and his ambitious, adventurous imagination as he grows older.

### DOUBLE DUTY

In addition to the room's ability to grow with its occupant, Dina needed a subtle theme because the room will serve as a spare bedroom, too. "We don't have an extra guest room," she says. "If someone stays with us, they would sleep there." A Ninja Turtle theme might be fine for a young boy, but Dina wanted friends and family to feel comfortable, too. She used subtle accents to incorporate a nautical idea into the room. "You only need one or two pieces that will drive home the theme," Dina says. She started with sky blue walls, then complemented the color with bold striped curtains, a map mural and rope wall hangings. These items hint at open sky, wind in the sails, the salty tang of the ocean and a spirit of adventure. **CB**

**| LEFT | WORLDS AWAY.** "The map wall-paper was a way to bring in more color and pattern," Dina says.

Not only does the mural add interest, but it contributes to the adventurous tone of the room without being loud or obnoxious.

**MATERIAL SHAPES.** Materials can help hint at a theme. These hanging picture frames feel nautical because rope is their main material. If they were made with lace or ribbon, the frames would have a different vibe.





**INSPIRING PIECES.** Dina's inspiration for the room started with the framed postcard on the bedside table that says, "The World Is Your Oyster." Shortly afterwards, she found a vintage tablecloth with whaling imagery, which she turned into a fun accent pillow for the bed. These pieces sealed the theme.



THE THEME CAN CATER TO THE STARRY-EYED IMAGINATION OF A LITTLE BOY AND HIS AMBITIOUS, **ADVENTUROUS IMAGINATION** AS HE GROWS OLDER.

**ADVENTUROUS READS.** Even books can become décor. Dina has displayed books that are appropriate for Knox's age, and he can change the collection as he grows older to include comics, novels, literature and sport magazines.

## MAKEOVER, NOT REMODEL

Dina's tips for creating an interesting room without redoing the architecture

**ADD WALLPAPER.** "If you have a space that's not interesting, wallpaper is your friend," Dina says. It will draw the eye and distract from boring lines or low ceilings. If you aren't ready to commit to a bold pattern or four walls of paper, try removable decals. They'll serve the same function without requiring a large commitment.

**DON'T BUY A FURNITURE SET.** While it might look coordinated, a furniture set will create a monotone feel in the room. "Take the time to mix and match the furniture so it looks interesting," Dina says. This will give the space depth and personality.

**BREAK SOME RULES.** Dina opted to obstruct a window with furniture in order to work with the room's awkward layout. What you sacrifice in tradition, you make up for in function.

**DECORATE FOR EVERYONE.** "Really think about the things the person loves," Dina says. "Then decorate accordingly." If your spouse hates pink flowers, don't use a wallpaper full of pink flowers. When the whole family feels comfortable in the house, they'll be more cheerful and willing to hang out.







*Summer Chic*





**AIRY AND BRIGHT.** Formal yet inviting, this living room perfectly pairs the natural light and foliage from the outdoors with structured Bridgewater sofas. The room's flow continues seamlessly with the non-traditional side tables and ottoman.

Distinctive colors, materials and textures bring a stylish, airy home to life.

BY JENNA DIXON • PHOTOGRAPHY BY MELANIE ACEVEDO AND MAX KIM-BEE

## DECORATING IS A BALANCING ACT.

Especially in the summer months when your home should be a respite from hot busy days, how can your decor convey a feeling of openness, space and light? In Timothy Whealon's new book, *In Pursuit of Beauty: The Interiors of Timothy Whealon*, the author gives us a glimpse into how to create rooms that have a sense of harmony and comfort, that are airy, edited, rooted in the past and informed by the present.

Through the use of diverse objects and art, Whealon has combined his extensive knowledge of fine arts with interior decorating to share an innovative approach that he believes will stand the test of time.

Every home has a unique personality that can be showcased in simple ways. Whether your home is grand or casual, new or old, let the beauty shine through with simplicity. "I don't personally believe in having things totally 'decorated,' as if everything has been done at once. I love layering things from different periods and cultures, mixing the pristine and the patinated," he says, "to create interiors that evolve and develop a patina over time and get better with age." Be inspired by Whealon's timeless designs, from a Long Island country house to a Southampton cottage, to create your own chic, airy home this summer.

## LIGHT, NATURAL AND MINIMAL

Reflect the natural beauty of your home through the use of light colors, natural elements and minimal furnishings. High-gloss paint on the wall in a white or cream color will reflect and maximize artificial and natural light. If you prefer a bit more color, Whealon suggests, "ethereal ivories, creams, pale grays and blues mixed with a glint of Lucite create a sense of tranquility that is perfect for a bedroom."

Give your furniture some breathing room; after all, you want to maneuver through the space with ease. The use of airy materials such as wicker, rattan, or light-colored wood will give the space a light and relaxed feel. Scale the furniture to fit the room; smaller furniture will make the room appear larger. Look for upholstery in smooth and light fabrics, such as cotton rather than heavy leather. Don't overwhelm the space with furniture and accessories. Let your personality shine through the space with your favorite modern art piece or antique figurine. You want to leave plenty of open space for an airy appearance.

## IT'S ALL IN THE DETAILS

Of course, you need the right light, colors and furniture, but no room is complete without texture. Texture provides depth and sensory sensations. When it comes to texture, balance and layering are key to making a room feel calm and inviting. "I wanted the rooms to feel layered yet airy, so I relied on texture to provide dimension," says Whealon.

To ground a room and add warmth, ethnic and patterned rugs are a great addition. Plants can often provide just the right amount of texture and color; plus they have been shown to improve your mood and can purify the air. A single antique wood piece with a nice patina can also bring warmth and dimension. Make it a weekend project to add molding to your walls, or let your home speak for itself through architectural elements like existing crown moldings, wood floors and beamed ceilings. Always consider how texture will elevate the overall experience of your design. **CB**

**GEOMETRIC CHIC.** Different textures and contrasting materials bring a bit of edge to this soft space, creating a retreat from daily life. Inviting light filters into the bedroom through the unobstructed window.











**GRAND MEETS INVITING.** Proportion as well as texture and color bring this Long Island dining room to life. An illusion of a high ceiling is created with crisp white paneling against the soft gray wall color. The dark wood floor anchors the entire space and allows the white and linen accents to pop.






# A Hands-On *Garden*

A designer collaborates with an antiques collector to create this beautifully personal cottage garden.

BY BREANNA ARMSTRONG  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK MENDEZ







*Turning your yard into a space that feels like you is no easy task. Diana Smith, an avid decorator and antique collector, had designed her interior with ease, but when it came to transforming her backyard into a space tailored to her tastes, she was at a bit of a loss.*

The yard Diana inherited had a pool that was never used and in bad condition. She knew she wanted more space to entertain and room for lush blooms, but she didn't know where to begin or what direction to go.


"I had never had a designer before," Diana says. But when her contractor recommended Kathryn Rue of Rue Group, Inc., she was ready to try something new. The pool was filled in, and Kathryn worked closely with Diana to create a cottage garden that would fit her needs.

"IF YOU DON'T HAVE THE VISION, I WOULDN'T BE AFRAID TO TRY A DESIGNER," DIANA SAYS OF KNOWING WHEN TO DO IT YOURSELF AND WHEN TO **CALL ON A PRO.** "**KATHRYN WAS THE RIGHT FIT, AND SHE LET ME EXPLORE WHAT I WANTED TO DO AND MET ME HALF WAY, AND IT WORKED OUT VERY WELL.**"



**A SHED IS AN ESSENTIAL STORAGE OPPORTUNITY THAT COULD ADD CHARM TO YOUR GARDEN. "IT WAS CHALLENGING TO ADD A SHED THAT LOOKED AT HOME IN THE SPACE," KATHRYN SAYS. "I MADE IT TO LOOK LIKE A HOUSE. IF YOU HAVE A SMALL YARD AND A SMALL BUDGET, YOU CAN STILL INCLUDE YOUR SHED IN A WAY THAT LOOKS LIKE IT BELONGS." THE CROQUET SET PROPPED AGAINST THE SIDE IS INVITING AND ADDS ANOTHER ENTERTAINING ELEMENT. DIANA USES THIS SHED AS A "HOLDING TANK" FOR HER ANTIQUES SIDE-BUSINESS.**



A photograph of an outdoor dining table set for a meal. The table is covered with a white lace tablecloth. In the foreground, a white teacup and saucer with a green floral pattern are visible. Behind it, a white plate with a green floral pattern holds a white napkin and a large green peony flower. A silver fork and knife are placed on the table. In the background, another similar set is visible. The background is a blurred green garden.

**WHY NOT USE YOUR BEST EVEN FOR OUTDOOR ENTERTAINING?** The lace tablecloth is a family heirloom, and the dishes are her wedding china from 40 years ago. Diana also has antiques and decorative finds placed all around the garden, adding a one-of-a-kind touch.





**1. THE IMMACULATE BRICKWORK** was done completely by Diana, who said that she finished 90 percent of it over one weekend. She started by laying the big pieces and working from there. "She cut bricks to match the edges and painted certain ones by hand for a varied look," Kathryn says. "She took the most inexpensive brick and made it look expensive."

**2. A SCREENED-IN PORCH** is a great transition between indoor and outdoor areas. Kathryn designed the flowerbeds to frame and curve around the perimeter, leaving a pathway to make the porch feel fully incorporated into the space.

**3.** For a more grown-in garden look, especially in beds that border the house, layer your plantings from tall to short. The taller plants layer against the house making it feel more settled and the shorter blooms, shrubs and then ground cover ease the transition from plants to hardscaping.

**4. AN OUTDOOR FAN** tops off the well-appointed pergola that is the centerpiece of the garden.

**5. INSIDE THE SCREENED PORCH,** the ornately scrolled peacock-like garden set is a definite attention grabber. It is the perfect place for a romantic breakfast.

**6. FRENCH DOORS** that lead from Diana's bedroom are just steps up from the garden on wood-topped brick steps.









## BASIC POINTS OF INTEREST


Starting with a blank slate, Kathryn began by envisioning the garden in zones. She kept in mind Diana's wish list, but balanced it carefully with her budget, allocating costs where it made the biggest difference. "I did really effective spatial planning for the area and her budget," Kathryn says. "The bigger planting beds were more eye-catching and very important to creating the impact for the cottage garden."

Then she set her sights on where she could center the entertaining space and set the tone for the yard. "I created the focal point with the dining area covered by a pergola," Kathryn says. The large-scale structure was situated slightly off center for better flow in the wide but short garden. In essence, it pulls visitors out into the space rather than cutting the space in half.

## A GARDEN THAT SPEAKS TO YOU

Diana had always been in love with brickwork in the classic cottage garden style, and when it came to executing her vision, she wasn't afraid to roll up her sleeves.

"Diana said she's always wanted brick that made a clinking sound," Kathryn explains. "Her contractor quoted her a price that was too high for her budget, so she said if I designed it, and her contractor could lay the concrete sub-base, then she would actually lay the brick herself."

Not only did the modified DIY approach work best with her budget, it also afforded her a chance to get even more creative. "She came up with the idea to paint the darker bricks to add to the design and ended up painting several hundred bricks," Kathryn says. "She did a beautiful job, and that's how she could afford it." 

**KATHRYN INCORPORATED** circular shapes into the rectangular yard to soften the space and create zones within a zone.



***She kept in mind Diana's wish list, but balanced it carefully with her budget, allocating costs where it made the biggest difference.***











# COLOR COACH

Take inspiration from daily life for sweet and simple ways to bring color into your home.

BY JENNA DIXON

PHOTOGRAPHY BY RINNE ALLEN



**LIGHT PLAY.** The warm tones of wood furniture and wood paneling pair seamlessly with the blue-green accent wall in the living room. Light radiating in from the side windows brings the paint selection to life with a calm presence.



COLORS ARE AMONG THE MOST EASILY changed element in any décor, yet many homeowners feel intimidated when choosing them. Committing to a brightly colored room can be a daunting, but in her new book, *A Colorful Home: Create Lively Palettes for Every Room*, Susan Hable shows how you can take the fear out of decorating with color simply by gleaning inspiration from items and the natural world around you.

"Choosing a color palette needs to be about the colors that give you a positive emotional response," she writes. "Think about how you want to feel in your space—happy, calm, relaxed or energized? How will you use each room? To entertain, eat, play or sleep? Find and use colors that support and enrich your life every day."

Bring meaning into décor by using colors that awaken your senses and incorporate your own unique design style. Read on for Susan's tips on how to translate color into personal interiors.

## GET CAPTIVATED BY YOUR SURROUNDINGS

Get up close and personal with the textures, hues and forms of the natural world around you, and keep a journal of your findings. Observe different color combinations in nature when bringing a color palette of your own into your home. "Trust yourself as you research and experiment, and be sure to give yourself plenty of time to develop. The more you experiment, the more you will hone your own style," Susan says.

Take photos—groups of leaves, shells, petals and rocks provide natural color combos; by capturing these you start to see which colors catch your eye. Observing the transition from season to season is also a great way to notice color combinations and their effect on your mood.

**GET BOLD.** This young girl's bedroom gives a traditional tufted headboard and floral quilt a walk on the wild side. The balance between the pops of neon color and bold artwork on a subdued palette creates an environment that isn't too overpowering but has a kick of style.

"CHOOSING A COLOR PALETTE NEEDS TO BE ABOUT THE COLORS THAT GIVE YOU A POSITIVE EMOTIONAL RESPONSE," SUSAN HABLE WRITES. "THINK ABOUT HOW YOU WANT TO FEEL IN YOUR SPACE—HAPPY, CALM, RELAXED OR ENERGIZED?"

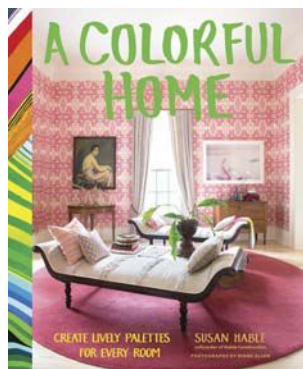








**A Colorful Home: Create Lively Palettes for Every Room** by Susan Hable, published by Chronicle Books LLC, © 2015; [chroniclebooks.com](http://chroniclebooks.com).



## BRING THE PALETTE TO LIFE

To develop a palette for your décor, first determine the core color you would like to use as your backdrop. The core color will be your building block for the rest of your room. Susan took inspiration from her garden. "I like a lot of different pinks, so I looked to my rose garden in order to get more specific shades. I took specimens from one plant—bud, blooms and petals—and built a palette from their component colors," she says. Translate palettes you find in nature into a room by layering paint, textiles, floor coverings and art inspired by your surroundings. These subtle details can change the tone, emotion and appeal of any room lacking a lively palette.

**SHADES OF PINK.** Layered in shades of pink, the room with its contrasting high ceilings and use of texture is still airy. The enchanting space is given a whimsical touch with petite boudoir chairs combined with the tall window and ceilings.



## COLOR REFERENCE

Use a color wheel to understand color pairings in a new way. A color wheel shows you how colors can be categorized in relation to one another; it provides an organized diagram of all the colors in the rainbow.

**THREE SIMPLE COLOR SCHEMES CAN BE FORMULATED WITH THE COLOR WHEEL:**

**COMPLEMENTARY** .... colors opposite one another on the color wheel; used together, they create contrast and interest.

**ANALOGOUS** ..... three colors adjacent to each other that work well when paired together.

**MONOCHROMATIC** .... brightness and saturation of a single hue; this scheme can result in clean and elegant combinations.

TO CREATE NEW AND FUN COLOR COMBINATIONS, PRINT A COLOR WHEEL FROM THE INTERNET OR PICK ONE UP AT YOUR LOCAL CRAFT STORE.



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# Make Yourself a HOME

Personalize your house by adding handmade touches like this wood-burned wall art.

BY VICTORIA VAN VLEAR  
WOOD-BURNISHED WALL ART BY JACINDA  
BONEAU AND JAIME MORRISON CURTIS  
WOOD BURNING BY JACKIE MILLER  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY AINSLEY/CARLISLE

## TIP:

IF YOU'RE USING CRAFT  
PAINT OR ACRYLICS  
INSTEAD OF  
WATERCOLORS, USE A  
PALETTE WHERE YOU  
CAN THIN THE PAINT  
WITH WATER.



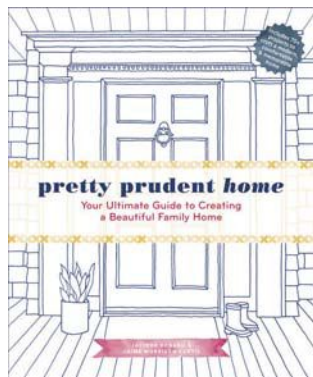
WHEN YOU WALK INTO A HOME, it's easy to tell if the inhabitants have put time and effort into their surroundings. Homemade objects, thoughtful décor and personal touches will distinguish a safe, comfortable living space from one that's messy, stiff or boring.

In their new book, *Pretty Prudent Home: Your Ultimate Guide to Creating a Beautiful Family Home*, authors Jacinda and Jaime want to share ideas that will help make a house into a home without spending a fortune or buying packaged décor off a shelf. "Prudence, as an ideal, is about more than the simple pinching of pennies," they write. "It's a way of living in which we consciously invest ourselves wisely toward future returns." Add a personal touch to your home with this handmade burnished plaque or any of their other projects.

## WOOD-BURNISHED WALL ART

One of my favorite pieces of advice in Jaime's first book, *Prudent Advice*, is "You Have a Garden." To summarize her heartfelt explanation, it means that if you don't have a yard or even a planter on a balcony, you still have all of the beautiful gardens of the world. You don't need to own a garden to have one. Amen to that.

When we asked Jackie Miller to design these lovely wood-burnishing projects, we knew this beautiful line was the perfect place to start. Then to balance out the earnest poetry of "You have a garden," we went to a great quote from the movie *Jaws*. "We're gonna need a bigger boat" basically sums up family life, with a bit of ominous humor.



**Pretty Prudent Home: Your Ultimate Guide to Creating a Beautiful Family Home** by Jacinda Boneau and Jaime Morrison Curtis, published by Stewart, Tabori & Chang, © 2015; [abramsbooks.com](http://abramsbooks.com).

## WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- One 7" × 9" (17 cm × 23 cm) or larger unfinished wooden plaque (you can also use any other unfinished wood surface)
- 180- or 220-grit sandpaper or soft sanding block
- You Have a Garden wood-burning template (available in the book or below), enlarged to fit the plaque
- Masking tape
- Tracing paper
- Pencil and soft eraser
- Wood-burning tool, fitted with a small cone-shaped tip (It's the one that looks most like a pencil.)
- Pliers
- Heat-resistant surface (A dinner plate will do.)
- Watercolor, craft or acrylic paint (see Tip)
- Paintbrush
- Ruler
- Heavy-duty staple gun and staples (or a hanging bracket)
- Hammer



Template

TRY THE FOLLOWING COLOR IDEAS FOR THE  
"YOU HAVE A GARDEN"  
PLAQUE.

Poppy petals .....	coral
Poppy center .....	gray-blue
Poppy stem .....	yellow-green
Daisy center .....	yellow
Daisy petal .....	pale yellow and white
Daisy stem .....	grass green or blue-green



## HOW TO DO IT:

- 1 To prep your wooden plaque, smooth the surface and edges using the sandpaper. Wipe the dust off, and set it aside.
- 2 Photocopy the template. Tape a sheet of tracing paper over the template. Using a pencil, trace the design. Lift the tracing paper off the template and place it wrong side up on your work surface. Use the pencil to draw the traced lines onto the wrong side of the paper. Now, tape the same sheet of tracing paper, right side up, onto the plaque. Trace over the image once again to transfer the graphite lines from the wrong side of the tracing paper onto the wood. (You have now drawn the design three times total.)
- 3 Remove the tracing paper. Use the pencil directly on the wood to touch up any faint lines, if necessary.
- 4 Prep your wood-burning tool using the Safety Suggestions. Wait 5 to 10 minutes for the tool to heat.
- 5 Holding your tool at a 45-degree angle like a pencil, trace over your lines with light to medium pressure. (Start with the part of the design that is closest to your hand.) Check the tip periodically and use the pliers to tighten it, if necessary.
- 6 When you are satisfied with your design, unplug the wood-burning tool. Place it on the heat-resistant surface and make sure it's secure as it cools.
- 7 Erase any pencil marks from your wooden plaque.
- 8 To paint the "You Have a Garden" plaque, begin by painting the center of the flowers, then move to the petals, and end with the stems.
- 9 When the paint is dry, place the plaque wrong side up on your work surface. Measure and mark the center of the plaque 3" (7.5 cm) from the top edge. Add a heavy-duty staple at this point for hanging. Hold the stapler slightly above the wood so the staple won't go in all the way. Be careful though; the staple sometimes bounces off the wood. If it goes in all the way, use the claw of the hammer to remove it slightly, or pull it out completely and try again.
- 10 You're done! No need to seal it—just don't get it wet.

## SAFETY SUGGESTIONS

**BECAUSE THE WOOD-BURNING TOOL CAN REACH UP TO 900°F, TAKE THESE PRECAUTIONS:**

1. Make sure your tool rests on a heat-resistant surface, like a dinner plate.
2. The tool should not be stretched far from the outlet—if needed, use an extension cord.
3. For extra peace of mind, use masking tape to hold the cord in place, reducing the chance of the tool rolling off your work surface. If it rolls, your first instinct is to catch it, which will burn you!
4. Never leave the tool unattended.
5. Keep the tool away from curious children and pets.
6. Don't hold the tool directly under your hand—heat rises, and it's very hot!
7. Don't be alarmed. There is a small amount of smoke produced.







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# Fairy Tale Inn-spiration

BY REBEKAH WAHLBERG

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GORDON BEALL AND DERRY MOORE

Flawlessly incorporating antique décor with rural living, the Inn at Little Washington is the quintessential cottage scene.

FAIRY TALES DO COME TRUE, and especially so when they're your muse for creating the perfect cottage getaway. Such is the case for Patrick O'Connell, chef, proprietor and founder of the Inn at Little Washington in Virginia, who transformed a historic auto garage into a "fantasy jewel box" hidden away in the countryside. He describes the growth and inspiration of the five-star, five-diamond inn over the past three decades in his book, *The Inn at Little Washington: A Magnificent Obsession*.

In 1978, Patrick and then-partner Reinhardt Lynch rented a former auto repair shop to open a restaurant in sleepy Little Washington, Virginia. The restaurant was a roaring success, and within a year, Patrick and Reinhardt purchased the property and began planning a remodel to build guest rooms above the restaurant.

Patrick teamed with London designer Joyce Conwy Evans to fashion the interior spaces of the inn, which he alternately describes as "elegant," "enchanted" and "whimsical." From floor to ceiling, Joyce takes all aspects of a room into consideration when creating a design, transforming a space into a holistic experience that transports guests into a world of her own creation.

This world is one reminiscent of the time of America's founding, effortlessly blending the ornate elegance of the Victorian era with the

simple rural living of a colonial farming village. Antique wood floors and coordinating wall paneling lend sophistication to rooms, while extravagantly detailed ceilings attract the eye and only enhance the refined setting. Outdoors, guests can pick through the vegetable garden and watch sheep and llamas graze at pasture.

Over the years, the inn has expanded from its single garage space to cover properties throughout the village. Patrick writes that all of the inn's projects have the goal of making the space "look as if it had always been there." This timeless quality, along with balancing the "sophistication of a proper house in town with the comfort of a country farmhouse," is a hallmark of the cottage style, and something the Inn at Little Washington has mastered. Here's how they did it.

**EXPOSED WOOD.** Give your cottage that rugged, lived-in look with raw wood textures, whether through weathered wood paneling or flooring, or open ceiling beams. Exposed logs and chinking are on display in the rear entry hall of the Mayor's House, a log cabin built in 1740 and the inn's oldest cottage. If you can't change your architecture, not to worry—incorporate some rugged charm with an antique

**ANTIQUE EXTRAVAGANCE** meets cottage charm at the Inn at Little Washington, where design is inspired by colonial elegance. The simple, clean lines of the bench and lattice offset the intricate designs of the pillows and curtains in this breakfast nook in the inn's loggia overlooking the courtyard.







## read a room

side table and some natural accessories, such as wicker baskets.

**NATURE MOTIFS.** Incorporate natural patterns—both floral and animal—throughout your home to evoke a sense of outdoor living, even if you're in the city. Chairs made from cast aluminum shaped like deer antlers bring a taste of the wilderness to the inn's Gamekeeper's Cottage.

**STATEMENT PIECES.** Many of the buildings at the inn are from the 1800s, and Patrick takes advantage of what he calls the "charms" of the original structure where he can. Not everyone has this advantage, so if your cottage is on the newer side, make use of large, antique statement pieces like hutches, armoires and bookcases that will leave a big impression and turn your home into a colonial cottage dream.

**COORDINATED DETAILS.** The colonial elegance that permeates the inn's rooms is due in no small part to the coordinated details. Match your linens and wallpaper, and use the same wood finish throughout a room to achieve this feature of classic colonial cottage style.



*The Inn at Little Washington: A Magnificent Obsession* by Patrick O'Connell, published by Rizzoli International Publications, Inc., © 2015; rizzoliusa.com.







**THE PARSONAGE**, so named because of its proximity to the town's Episcopal church, was originally built in the 1800s. With Delft tile and painted spaniel ceramics adorning the faux-pine mantel, the Parsonage's sitting room is reminiscent of an era long gone.

PHOTO BY GORDON BEALL





**THE INN'S MOST RECENT RESTORATION**, the Parsonage, is a classic example of reconciling old and new. The cottage's formerly dingy tan exterior was repainted a vibrant sage green, while the cream accents draw out the Victorian details.



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## COTTAGE KITCHENS

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**Kitchen cabinets:** ADEL by Ikea, visit [ikea.com](http://ikea.com).

**Cabinet and banquette paint:** Wet Pavement by Valspar, visit [valspar.com](http://valspar.com).

**Marble countertops:** Marble Uniques, visit [marbleuniques.com](http://marbleuniques.com).

**Apron front sink:** Kohler, visit [leesupply.com](http://leesupply.com).

**Kitchen cabinet hardware, Samsung appliances:** Lowes, visit [lowes.com](http://lowes.com).

**Floral print in kitchen:** Rifle Paper Co., visit [riflepaperco.com](http://riflepaperco.com).

**Pine dining room table, pine and pipe cookbook shelf:** DIY projects.

**Black glass buffet handles:** Hobby Lobby, visit [hobbylobby.com](http://hobbylobby.com).

**Floral prints in dining room:** Little Low Studio, visit [littlelow.com](http://littlelow.com).

**Dining chairs:** Overstock, visit [overstock.com](http://overstock.com).

**Barstools:** Thrift store.



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## FAMILY-FRIENDLY SOPHISTICATION

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**Upholstery and fabrics:** Sunbrella, visit [sunbrella.com](http://sunbrella.com).

## SERENE AND BREEZY

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**Builder:** Mike Sheerin, Sheerin Construction, (310) 254-7593.

**Kitchen cabinets, built ins, and master bath vanity:** Custom, Amir Azimi.

**Architect:** Sam Williams.

**Island pendant lights:** Juliska, (203) 316-0212 or [juliska.com](http://juliska.com).

**Dining room pendant, master bedroom headboard:** Ballard Designs, visit [ballarddesigns.com](http://ballarddesigns.com).

**Painting over the fireplace:** Illya Kagan, visit [illyakagan.com](http://illyakagan.com).

**Coat rack:** Red Egg, visit [redegg.com](http://redegg.com).

**Rugs:** Magdalena York Collection, visit [magdalenayorkcollection.com](http://magdalenayorkcollection.com).

**Fabric in master bedroom:** Annette Tatum, visit [annettetatum.com](http://annettetatum.com).

**Fabric on girl's room window:** Laura Ashley, (855) 396-6100 or [lauraashleyusa.com](http://lauraashleyusa.com).

**Bedskirts in boys' room, children's sink:** Pottery Barn, visit [potterybarn.com](http://potterybarn.com).

**Kitchen stools:** Overstock, visit [overstock.com](http://overstock.com).

**Portrait:** Elsa Hartman.

**Paint colors:** All walls: Simply White. All trim: Super White.

Girl's room walls: Pink Bliss. Boys' room walls: Patriotic White.

Baby's room: Atrium White. Front door: Admiral Blue. Floors upstairs: Sidewalk Gray. Benjamin Moore, visit [benjaminmoore.com](http://benjaminmoore.com).

**Countertops:** Frosty Carrina by Caesarstone, (818) 779-0999 or [caesarstoneus.com](http://caesarstoneus.com).

**Vintage stove:** Antique Stove Heaven, visit [antiquestoveheaven.com](http://antiquestoveheaven.com).

**Chairs in dining room:** Design within reach, visit [dwr.com](http://dwr.com).



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## COUNTRY COTTAGE, CITY CHIC

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**Designer:** Elizabeth R. Swartz, ASID of Elizabeth Swartz Interiors, visit [elizabethswartzinteriors.com](http://elizabethswartzinteriors.com).

**Deck dining furniture:** Richard Allen, visit [richardsonallen.com](http://richardsonallen.com).

**Custom stained glass side lights:** Jim Anderson, visit [jimandersonstainedglass.com](http://jimandersonstainedglass.com).

**Kitchen counter stools:** Geoffrey Warner Studios, visit [geoffreywarnerstudio.com](http://geoffreywarnerstudio.com).

**Kitchen pendant lights:** Visual Comfort, visit [visualcomfort.com](http://visualcomfort.com).

**Fabrics and trims:** Brunschwig & Fils, visit [brunschwig.com](http://brunschwig.com). Lee Jofa, visit [leejofa.com](http://leejofa.com). Scalamandre, visit [scalamandre.com](http://scalamandre.com). Kravet, visit [kravet.com](http://kravet.com). Duralee Fabrics, visit [duralee.com](http://duralee.com). Osborne & Little Fabric, visit [osborneandlittle.com](http://osborneandlittle.com). Casamance, visit [casamance.com](http://casamance.com). Malabar Fabric, visit [malabar.co.uk](http://malabar.co.uk). Pindler & Pindler, Inc., visit [pindler.com](http://pindler.com). Romo, visit [romo.com](http://romo.com). Designer's Guild, visit [designersguild.com](http://designersguild.com). Glant, visit [glant.com](http://glant.com). GP&J Baker, visit [gpandjbaker.com](http://gpandjbaker.com). Samuel & Sons, visit [samuelandsons.com](http://samuelandsons.com). Houles, visit [houles.com](http://houles.com). Thibaut, visit [thibautdesign.com](http://thibautdesign.com). Robert Allen, visit [robertallendesign.com](http://robertallendesign.com). Zimmer + Rohde, visit [zimmer-rohde.com](http://zimmer-rohde.com).

**Wallpapers:** Phillip Jeffries, visit [phillipjeffries.com](http://phillipjeffries.com). Pierre Frey, visit [pierrefrey.com](http://pierrefrey.com). Stroheim, visit [stroheim.com](http://stroheim.com).

**Paint colors:** Kitchen: Cool Blue. Master bedroom: Exhale.

**Study:** Rosy Blush. All other areas: White Opulence. Benjamin Moore, visit [benjaminmoore.com](http://benjaminmoore.com).



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## EASY LIVING

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**Fez diamond rug by Michael Smith:** Patterson, Flynn & Martin, visit [pattersonflynnmartin.com](http://pattersonflynnmartin.com).

**Lauren table lamp:** Circa Lighting, (877) 762-2323 or [circalighting.com](http://circalighting.com).

**Bedroom artwork:** Pamela Munger, visit [pamelamunger.com](http://pamelamunger.com).

**Peacock lampshade:** Anthropologie, (800) 474-8858 or [anthropologie.com](http://anthropologie.com).

**Turtle shell pillow:** Jonathan Adler, (800) 963-0891 or [jonathanadler.com](http://jonathanadler.com).

**Turquoise art-glass cabinet hardware:** Uneek Glass Fusions, (707) 580-9600 or [uneekglassfusions.com](http://uneekglassfusions.com).

**Love candy art, metallic gold:** Made By Girl, visit [madebygirl.com](http://madebygirl.com).

**Reclaimed wood dining table, chairs and family room end table:** De Cor, (626) 405-0897 or [de-cor.com](http://de-cor.com).

**Family room lamp:** Arteriors Home, (800) 338-2150 or [arteriorshome.com](http://arteriorshome.com).

**Pisces stone and pewter accents rainbow glass:** Lunada Bay Tile, (310) 257-1300 or [lunadabaytile.com](http://lunadabaytile.com).

**395020 wallpaper:** Brewster Home Fashions, (800) 366-1700 or [brewsterwallcovering.com](http://brewsterwallcovering.com).

**Paint colors:** Living room: Albescent OC-40.

**Bedroom:** Tequila Lime 2028-30. **Kitchen door:**

Florida Keys Blue 2050-40. **Family room:** November Rain 2142-60. Benjamin Moore, (855) 724-6802 or [benjaminmoore.com](http://benjaminmoore.com).

## SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE

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**The World Is Your Oyster postcard:** Rifle Paper Company, (407) 622-7679 or [riflepaperco.com](http://riflepaperco.com).

**Frosted-glass star light fixture:** Direct from Mexico, (866) 234-8744 or [directfrommexico.com](http://directfrommexico.com).

**Wall paint:** Barely Teal, (855) 724-6802 or [benjaminmoore.com](http://benjaminmoore.com).

**Innerspace accent table with arrows:** Hay Needle, (866) 530-4155 or [hayneedle.com](http://hayneedle.com).

**European crisscross sheets:** RH Baby & Child, visit [rhhbabyandchild.com](http://rhhbabyandchild.com).

**Boardwalk dresser and nightstand:** Young America, (844) 639-3775 or [youngamerica.com](http://youngamerica.com).

**Curtains:** Martha and Ash, visit [marthaandash.com](http://marthaandash.com).

**World map mural:** Amazon, visit [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).



room recipe



# Walking ON AIR

For an easy and artistic addition to your décor, look no further than the simple and elegant air plant.


BY VICTORIA VAN VLEAR  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SKLO



**IF YOU'RE NEW TO INDOOR PLANTING** or don't have a green thumb, try air plants. As members of the *Tillandsia* genus, these plants receive nutrients through their leaves and only use their roots to attach to their surroundings. While they do need good air circulation and occasional misting, they're easy to deal with and you won't have to worry about messy or unsightly dirt.

Best of all, you can put them anywhere. Use air plants to create vignettes in your décor. In this hallway, several rows of hand-blown glass

Hold vessels by SkLO ([sklostudio.com](http://sklostudio.com)) create a unique art display on a simple wall. The collection is beautiful, and the transparent glass captures and refocuses the light from the windows. The addition of air plants inside the vessels and on the table below completes the vignette.

When you look for a location for your air plants, find places that could use an extra point of focus for the eye—inside glass containers, on bookshelves or even hanging from the ceiling. Just make sure the plants are still within easy reach so you can mist them regularly. 



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